The American Home

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DECEMBER 1934

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An exquisite soft pink ruffled Sweet Pea. Winner of the Gold Medal of the Scottish National Sweet Pea Society. Originated on Burpee's Floradale Farms. Packet 20c.

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The ten beautiful Sweet Peas shown on this page have been specially selected as the best for your garden. They are all Gold Medal and other prize winners.

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.....	Burpee's Double Hybrid Nasturtiums	.....
.....	Collection Best 8 Giant Dahlia-Flowered Zinnias	.....
.....	Collection of 5 Giant Ruffled Petunias	.....
.....	Collection of 5 Beautiful New Flowers	.....
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.....	Collection of 4 Rust-Proof Maximum Snapdragons	.....

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Special "Best Ten" Sweet Pea Collection

This special collection contains one pkt. each of all the lovely Sweet Peas illustrated on this page —ten of the most beautiful Sweet Peas in the world.

One full size packet of each separate variety—ten packets in all (value $1.65) postpaid for only $1.00. ½ oz. of each of the ten varieties (value $4.35) postpaid for only $3.00.

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New colors in the sensational double, sweet-scented Nasturtiums. Hybrids of Golden Gleam. Marvelous range of colors from pale primrose through yellow, orange, salmon, rose, cerise, scarlet, crimson, maroon, etc. Gold Medal flowers. Sold last year at a dollar for ten seeds. **Special Offer:** 150 seeds postpaid for only $1.00.

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Special Collection offer: Includes **Crimson Monarch, Exquisite** (light rose), **Maiden's Blush** (shell-pink), **Old Gold, Old Rose, Golden Dawn, Polar Bear** (white), and **Purple Prince.** One Pkt. each of the 8 colors (value $1.60) postpaid for only $1.00.

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Mammoth flowers deeply waved and ruffled. This wonderful collection includes **Copper-Red, Evening Star** (white, yellow throat), **Mauve Queen** (rich mauve, center veined purple), **Robin Hood** (bright red, black center), and **Ruffled Pink.** One Pkt. each of the 5 varieties (value $1.75) postpaid for only $1.00.

5 Beautiful New Flowers

Burpee's Golden Cosmos (early-flowering golden-orange); **Calendula Orange Shaggy** (distinctly new in color and form); **Marigold Yellow Supreme** (form similar to Guinea Gold but rich lemon-yellow); **Larkspur Blue Bell** (Giant Imperial Class); **Petunia Blue Wonder** (luminous mid-blue Balcony). One Pkt. each of these five new flowers (value $1.25) postpaid for only $1.00.

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Six exquisite colors of this new wilt-resistant strain: **Crimson, Shell-Pink, Purple, Deep Rose, Violet,** and **White.** One Pkt. each of the 6 varieties (value $1.50) postpaid for only $1.00.

4 New Rust-Proof Maximum Snapdragons

A new strain 75% immune to the Snapdragon rust. Special Collection Offer: **Crimson, Pink Shades, White,** and **Yellow**—one Pkt. each of the four colors (value $1.60) postpaid for only $1.00.

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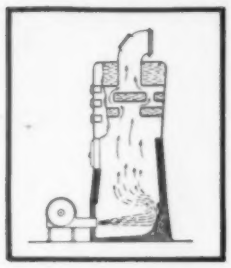
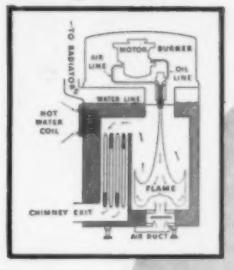
W. ATLEE BURPEE CO. 346 Burpee Bldg. Philadelphia

Showing how the heat of an oil flame blows right through a coal boiler, and up the chimney, where it is wasted.



Showing how the G-E Oil Furnace traps heat, makes it pass three times over heat-absorbing surfaces.



Any home-owner makes a SERIOUS MISTAKE

if he buys automatic oil heat without knowing these facts

YOU MAY have heard something about General Electric developing a new and entirely different way of heating the home automatically—with a furnace so efficient, so economical, so foolproof, that it is absolutely unique.

Before we tell you the facts about this furnace, you ought to know something of how it came to be developed.

Seven years ago, when G-E engineers started work on oil heating, they found that existing boilers were a stumbling block to any real advance in oil burning. They developed an improved burner, but found that trying to combine it with a coal boiler was like trying to make a steamship out of a sailing vessel. The burner and boiler just weren't made for each other.

Oil requires special boiler

An oil flame is big, intensely hot, and fast-burning. It needs more space in which to burn than a coal flame does. A boiler, to absorb all the heat of an oil flame, must not only be big enough to hold it, but must have enough water-backed surface surrounding it to trap and absorb the heat so quickly given off. When you burn oil in a coal burner, its free natural draft allows too much of the heat to "run away" up the chimney and be wasted.

Also an oil flame subjects a boiler to terrific strains. It comes on with intense heat, shuts off, then does the same thing all over again dozens of times each day. There are good reasons why the oil flame should work that way—but the boiler must be made to stand it.

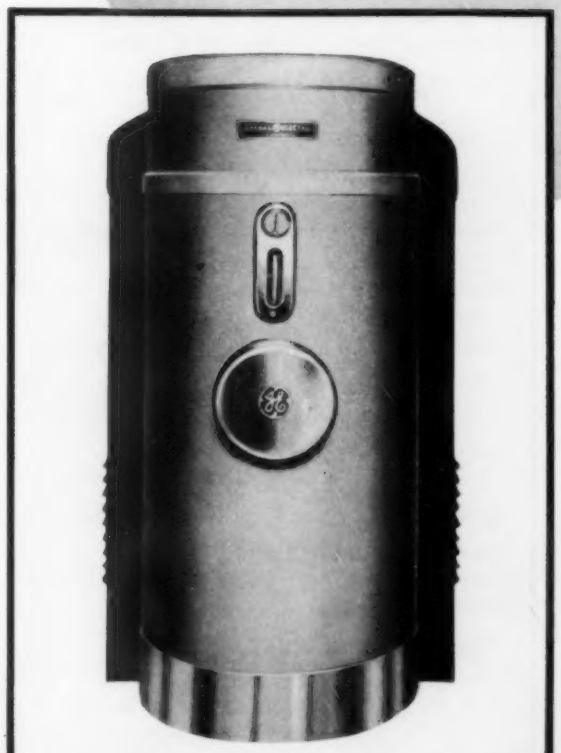
Even if you build a special boiler for oil, it can't be most efficient unless the oil is atomized properly, and has enough air added for complete combustion.

It must be broken down into a fine mist. Unless this is done—if the oil particles are left too large—they can't burn completely. This means more waste. If too much air is added, that also results in wasteful burning of the oil.

A new and better way

So the engineers proved that the only way to achieve real balance between the boiler and the burner would be to design a complete, coordinated unit. That would be the ideal way of burning fuel, with every part of the unit designed and made to work with every other part.

With all these things in mind, the G-E engineers started from scratch. They worked for five years on the G-E Oil Furnace. They invented a new way of atomizing fuel oil. As they were designing a boiler as well as a burner, they were able to put the burner on top. This made possible a new and more effective way of burning the oil—similar to the way it is burned in power-house boilers. By this method the oil burns quietly, completely. There is no soot or smoke or smell. Fuel savings average 20% to 50%.



The G-E boiler in itself is remarkable. It is made of steel boiler plate, arc-welded together into one piece.

The fire-box is tailor-made to fit the burner. The first thing the flame touches is high-grade firebrick. This quickly becomes glowing hot. Carbon has no chance of forming on it. In fact, you could wipe this brick with your clean handkerchief—and the handkerchief would still be clean.

With this furnace, everything is enclosed in the beautifully lacquered steel shell. There are no parts outside. The burner oils itself with the fuel oil. No oil smells can leak out. In fact, the inside of the furnace is under a slight vacuum.

With the G-E Oil Furnace you have no more fire-tending than if you had no furnace at all. The electric-clock Thermal Control regulates temperatures automatically without winding.

Year-round hot water at big saving

You have automatic hot water the year round—in summer as well as winter—because this furnace never takes a vacation. Of course, you get no heat when none is needed.

You have a complete, coordinated heating unit. You have comfort such as you have always wished for. You would think it should cost more to have than ordinary heating. Instead, it costs you less—far less. The fuel savings with the G-E Oil Furnace in some cases would sound unbelievable if they weren't based on absolute fact.

Why not fill out the coupon below for free 16-page book that gives you "The Inside Story"?

MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY!

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, Div., A.H.12
Air Conditioning Dept., 570 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y.

I want FREE 16-page booklet entitled "The Inside Story," telling of the new fuel-saving General Electric Oil Furnace.

NAME.....

RESIDENCE.....

CITY & STATE.....

GENERAL ELECTRIC OIL FURNACE

Truly in keeping with the spirit of *The American Home* is the reception room in connection with its offices, three views of which are shown above. It is done in Early American—maple furniture, hooked rugs, and on the walls murals of Currier and Ives reproductions. We felt the one in the center expresses so well the thought of going home for Christmas that we have selected it to reproduce in color on our cover

Merry Christmas to you!

Home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Cook
Toms River, New Jersey

Home of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Christianson
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Home of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Henley
Terre Haute, Indiana

MRS. JEAN AUSTIN, Editor

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Christmas packages shown on the cover by courtesy of DuPont Cellophane Co.

Home of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Lloyd
Verona, New Jersey

Home of Mayor and Mrs. Arthur H. Jones
Arlington, New Jersey

Home of Hanna Post
West Hurley, New York

LEONARD BARRON, Horticultural Editor

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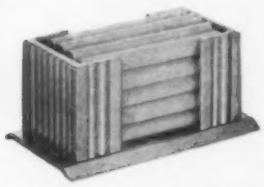
CHASE

Check List

FIFTEEN BRILLIANT ANSWERS TO YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT QUESTIONS

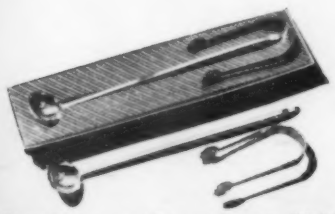
$1.00



Who wouldn't welcome such a stunning, useful gift as the Chase Smokestack! Perfect for bridge and dinner tables. Holds twenty cigarettes. Finished in gleaming non-tarnishing chromium, in bronze, and in black nickel. Just $1.00.

Since everybody needs and welcomes a really good-looking ash-tray, let the Chase Aristocrat solve dozens of your Christmas Gift problems. It's new, practical and really beautiful, whether you select it in brilliant chromium or in rich copper and brass. Only $1.00.

Here is a gift that few men have—all men want—the Chase Jigger and Swizzler Set. The High Hat Jigger holds the correct 1½ oz. The niblick Swizzlers are perfect for mixing and stirring. Complete set, only $1.00.



Whether they serve lemonade, tea, highballs, or punches they need a long-stirring spoon and a pair of ice tongs. Chase makes both in non-tarnishing chromium, and packs them in an attractive gift box at the cheerful price of $1.00 for both.

This good looking Chase Candy Dish has a three-compartment glass container which makes it practical for serving varied sweets, nuts, after-dinner mints. Comes in four beautiful finishes—nickel and black, brass and copper, all brass or all copper. Only $1.00.

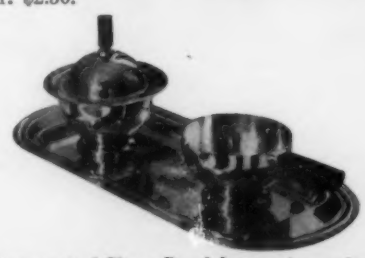
$1.50 to $3.00

Whether she serves chocolates, mints, nuts or olives in it, she will always remember receiving this useful and lovely gift. The Chase Bon Bon Dish is finished in copper and white enamel, copper and green, or in gleaming chromium and black. And it is just $1.50.

Here is a gift that will delight a man 365 mornings a year—the Chase Newspaper Rack. Keeps the daily news out of the breakfast butter. So good-looking that even wives like it. In English bronze, or brass and copper. And it costs only $1.50.

The Chase Drum Lamp is a grand gift for boy, girl, man or woman. An excellent night light. Soft light shines through both drum heads. Colorfully finished in red and blue, also in white and black. Complete, with cord, $1.50.

One of the smartest and most useful of all Chase gifts is this modern Mint and Nut Dish. Perfect for serving two kinds of olives, nuts, candies, mints and appetizers. In non-tarnishing Chase Chromium. Also in brass and copper. $2.50.



This practical Chase Breakfast set is a welcome gift for it can be used every day. For breakfast trays, after-dinner coffee, tea and luncheon, it is ideal. Finished in modern Chromium, it will never tarnish. The set (creamer, sugar and tray) is modestly priced at $3.00.

$4.00 to $4.50

The person who receives this stunning Chase Sauce Bowl will be delighted with it. First, because of its beautiful design, and gleaming chromium finish. Second, because it is ideal for serving all salad dressings, gravies, hot chocolates and other sauces. Complete with ladle—but $4.00.

This smart, modern Chase Ice Bowl and Tongs will be welcomed many times because it has so many uses. For potato chips, crackers, marshmallows, nuts, as well as ice, it is ideal. Beautifully finished in silvery chromium, also in brass and copper. $4.50, including tongs.

This modern Chase cocktail shaker in gleaming, non-tarnishing chromium is as easy to look at as it is to shake. The sleeve top fits snugly and a good strainer makes it practical. Finished in polished chromium with red, green or black enamel rings. A beautiful gift, $4.50.

Whoever gets this clever Chase Pancake and Corn Set will bless your generosity. So useful. The Chromium pitcher for serving syrup, hot chocolate sauce, melted butter, cream. The Chromium Spheres for sugar, salt, pepper and other condiments. Tray, in blue glass and chromium. $4.50 for the four pieces.

The Chase Desk Lamp is a superb gift because it does what few lamps do—makes reading and writing easy. Swivels in all directions. Smartly finished in chromium or bronze. With ivory shade—only $4.50.

If you have any difficulty in buying these or any other Chase gifts write directly to Chase Brass & Copper Co., Dept. A-3, Chase Tower, New York

Christmas morning in the Black Forest

Courtesy, German Tourist Information Offi

One for adoration, two for celebration

Mildred A. Kenney

Christmas is the season of light. Light up the candles for Christmas! Set them gleaming against high vaulted chancel roofs, twinkling from fragrant gift-laden evergreens, streaming through clear, sparkling window panes. With one candle you may light a thousand. The reverent little figures of wood shown above, modern in feeling, are by Emmy Zweybruck. By courtesy of Rena Rosenthal

LIGHT is not just light at Christmas. It is a symbol. Every one who sets a candle in the window at Christmas will have in his heart reasons of his own—reasons colored by all that has gone before and summing up his "luminous, unconquerable hope" and faith in those things which are to come. To the child who strokes the flame of the candle, to the traveler whose way is lighted by its rays, or to the one who placed it there, a candle in the window at Christmas is above all else a symbol of Joy and Peace.

The very first use of candles for Christmas is not recorded in the annals of any nation, but I have no doubt they or some flaming counterpart lighted the halls of good King Arthur in York where in 521 A.D. he is said to have kept the first Christmas feast. Following his example, the custom became general. Yule logs burned. Vying with them in size were the wax tapers which chandlers presented to their customers and—strangely enough—the poor gave to the rich.

The ancients regarded light as a great blessing and used it to illustrate the relationship of God to man and of Christ's mission to the world. Prophets foretold the coming of One whose word should be a light unto their feet and a lamp unto their pathway. Wise men followed a star to a place where the young Child was. By the third century tapers symbolical of that star and His light burned before Christian altars. The illumination attendant upon old Hebrew and Roman Feasts of Light were transferred to that of the nativity to bring the joy and peace of the "Christ Mass" nearer to the hearts of the people.

The Roman church developed an elaborate ritual of lights for the altar. At the celebration of Mass at least two, symbolical of the divine and human natures of our Lord, were lighted. Many more in prescribed numbers were burned for occasions of greater solemnity. Edward VI permitted "Two lights . . . for the signification that Christ is the very true Light of the world" to remain upon the altars of the Church of England. Hastings says, "Long ago one could have seen, in not a few churches, upon Christmas Eve, two small lights symbolizing the Divine and Human natures being gradually brought together until they blended in one brilliant flame."

For ceremonies of joy white

was the color for which purpose beeswax was bleached in the sun. The candles themselves were shaped with anxious care, "In holy places to the sound of hymns and in the atmosphere of prayers." This concern and the manner of placing them, not to dispel darkness, but in varying numbers and arrangements emblematical of, and to do honor to, Christ as the Light of the world suggests one of the very rich sources of the language of candles. Like a chant it runs:

"One for adoration
Two for celebration . . ."

Symbolism of candles, even in their association with Christmas, comes from yet another source. We are a superstitious people. In times past candles were powerful omens. Divination by numbers is very old. By what succession Christmas candles became a medium of telling fortunes is not quite clear, but life, death, marriage, prosperity, disaster, crops, and the weather were all foretold by shapes in the dripping tallow. Tears were in the perfectly formed drops, heart sorrows in broken lines, false friends in curves, a letter for every spark, success in triangles, journeys in ships; good luck and lovers and gold in a myriad of waxen shapes which eyes seeking those riches could surely see.

When the candle burned blue, ghosts walked. Evil spirits could be discussed in safety when candles burned on Christmas for then as Shakespeare says:

"No planets strike,
No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm,
So hallowed and so gracious is the time."

St. Patrick, wishing to do good to the people who had befriended him, peeled a rush (leaving a little film of rind the full length to keep it together), dipped it in oil, and gave candles to the Irish. These feeble quick burning rush lights which the poorer classes used so long were held in great reverence. They lengthened the cottager's day. The blessing which they were to those in the "wee house up in the heather" and the charm which they had for the traveler upon whose way their beams chanced to shine is largely lost in these days of pavements and well-lighted thoroughfares. In those days when light was more necessary and less abundant candles were snuffed with a prayer for their renewal. Irish children knew a grace for light. Light in a cottager's window at Christmas was a labor or love, for the poor knew the value of light.

In West Jutland candles for the householder and his wife were burned at the Christmas feast. That candle which went out last indicated whose life would be the longest. In Scotland a candle burning out before midnight foretold some great calamity. In Scandinavian countries the father or oldest member of the household extinguished the Christmas candles at sunrise. Animals were crossed with what remained of it to insure their health and usefulness during the coming year. Fowls were fed upon the melted wax to protect and increase the flocks. Ploughs were smeared with it to make the furrows straight and fertile. Lighted candles were snuffed in boxes of mixed grain and carefully withdrawn. The grains which clung to the wick were anxiously observed and counted. Many kernels of any grain foretold that crop would bring a profit. Fields were planted according to the warning of the candle. In Norway silver and pewter and other household goods were set where they would catch the rays of the candle, for in candle rays on Christmas there was to be had benediction.

Village children in Lancaster presented candles to their schoolmasters on the last day of the term before Christmas. Carollers on the Isle of Man sang carols as long as the candles which they carried burned. The Croatian child lighted his candle from one in the hand of his father, saying as he did so, "Christ is born." German wives set a feast, decorated the Christmas tree and left lighted candles for the angel who passes while we sleep. In Scandinavia it was to guide "Kristine" in bringing gifts. Candles lighted by the youngest child—or one named Mary—burned across the dark heath in Ireland and the doors were left ajar for the Stranger who was expected.

It is good to remember, too, Scrooge and the Feziwiggs ball, the homecoming at the Cratchits, and how Wassailers, young and old, with wreathed bowls and carrying candles sang carols at the doors in Somersetshire; that candle set stars were held aloft on Christmas eve by the "kinder" of Holland, and that candles were burned before the cribs in Italy, on the festal board in France and above the doors in Spain—all to greet the little Lord Jesus in appropriate manner if he came.

We read even among the Puritans of branches, taper lighted, "for the children," and of candles so primed with gunpowder and timed that Christmas came in a flash of light—and thunderous explosion.

This language of candles has been amplified and enriched by every generation until as Emerson says of thought, "It belongs to him who can understand it," and,

"Tho' oft expressed,
'Tis his at last who says it best."

Today in many a household Christmas cannot really be said to have come until the candles of Christmas are lighted. It may be with one candle or two—or more. It may be with a deliberate harking back to old customs and the days of "I remember when . . ." or it may be in the spirit of neighborliness which so permeates Christmas as to be inseparable from it—a spirit of love and kindness by which legends are reborn in every household and family traditions are built out of simple acts of devotion that we keep Christmas. But let us have candles, for by their magic, burning as they do even where no hearth fire is, we may experience the sum of all the Christmases ever kept.

We might even begin by giving candles. Hand-fashioned by berry dips with the clever verse promising long life and happiness to him who burns it to the socket on Christmas eve would appeal to friends of any age or circumstance. Candles of sage brush and pine and cedar might go to those who love the West. Others would revel in the glorious and interesting creations of commercially skilled candle artists.

Those of us who burn a "Christ child" candle will place it in a window near the door. In the language of candles it is "one for adoration." According to the old, old legend it is to light the way for the Christ child if He should be on earthly visitation. It is to atone for that first Christmas night when there was no room in the inn. And the Irish have a faith that "who knows, on some Christmas eve Jesus and Mary and Joseph may come again, not to Palestine but to the Holy Isle on the fartherest edge of Europe."

One for adoration,
Two for celebration,——

There is a language of candles but at the heart of it all is this: Peace and Joy—a gladsome welcome to the new-born King and a Merry, Merry Christmas and holiday season to all who enter where we have lighted the candles for Christmas.

Candlelight and roses—a perfect combination for Christmas, or any other time! And all the more perfect when put together in one holder, a modern replica of an old-fashioned candle mold, painted white and gold, with graceful handles. There can be two candles, or four or six or whatever number you prefer, and as many or as few flowers. It comes from Ovington's

F. M. Demarest

Christmas tables

(See next page)

Mary E. Hussong

THERE is something lovely about the thought of a woman decorating her table. One thinks of medieval ladies superintending the placing of the boar's head, and of Russian princesses laying out services of silver and wondrous enamels inside a snow-banked palace. But when it's America with Christmas approaching, one sees a charming woman with a light heart and a happy face deep in plans to create the most beautiful table that can be achieved out of imagination and wedding silver and her nicest china and happiest inspirations.

Naturally, the woman whose Christmas table will be the most perfectly imagined will be the woman who all the past year through has counted a spray of flowers, a bowl of fruit, and a handful of amusing figurines as essential a part of her dinner table as bread and butter. This is the woman who one day last spring bought fat little jugs, filled them with pert daisies, and set them around her table; the woman who chose last summer a luncheon centerpiece of wicker basket lined with green leaves and filled with plump red old-fashion strawberries; the woman who in the fall floated two yellow stemless chrysanthemums together with green leaves in a shallow crystal bowl for table decoration.

When such a woman plans a Christmas table her mind will let loose a hundred new and fanciful ideas and her eager fingers will be impatient to begin with tissue, flowers, and fruit.

Ourselves, we have always held that there should be four Christmas tables in every home. First of all comes the Christmas-eve table for that night of fun and frolic and anticipation. The table for the night when many women add another member to the family in the person of the high school history teacher far from home, or the little boy whose own Christmas, save for this one dinner, will be a grave, dreary grown-up sort of affair. On such a night let informality be the keynote and gaiety your sole objective.

For a table centerpiece we suggest that you use a great big wooden bowl filled almost to overflowing with wonderful large popcorn balls. On either side lay great swags of evergreens, extending nearly to the edges of the table. Put out all the overhead lights except two, and from these two sockets remove the ordinary bulbs and screw in two bright red ones! These red bulbs can usually be bought at a Woolworth store. Get out your red goblets and plates. This is the night of nights to use them! Should you have no red plates in your china cupboard, a five and ten cent store can supply you with red beetle ones for a song. Of course, you'll not only want your house to look like Christmas, you'll want it to smell like Christmas. So—just before dinner is served, burn a little fresh pine incense in the dining room. It will add a subtle touch to your Christmas eve atmosphere. And we're confident that you won't neglect to have a cheerful fire of dried logs crackling up the living room chimney.

When it comes to the food, order just an awfully good dinner with as many of the family's favorite dishes as you can work

in. We suggest that as a decorative touch you add little bowls of green mint jelly to the table during the meat course. And when it comes to dessert, cut your cake in squares, ice these squares all over in bright red, peppermint flavored icing and stud them with candy stars and silver balls. Let the ice cream be green pistachio.

As for yourself, don't neglect to dress up to your background. Get out that very gay dress which you bought in an abandoned moment and in which you have never quite had the courage to face your friends. This is an occasion which needs a hostess wearing such a frock. And don't fail to add those long earrings that you picked up for a quarter in that outlandish antique shop.

Our second table is for Christmas morning. Yes, one must eat breakfast on such a morning. Dinner never gets under way before two. Ourselves, we wouldn't dream of missing a nine-o'clock-breakfast with the family gathered round, faces bright with anticipation of the day ahead, and everyone falling over himself to wish everyone else a Merry Christmas. Insist on a family breakfast this year and let the tree wait until ten. If you decorate your table with sufficient interest, and do it all the night before behind closed doors, your family will be on hand at nine, eager to see what you have done. Don't miss Christmas day in the morning!

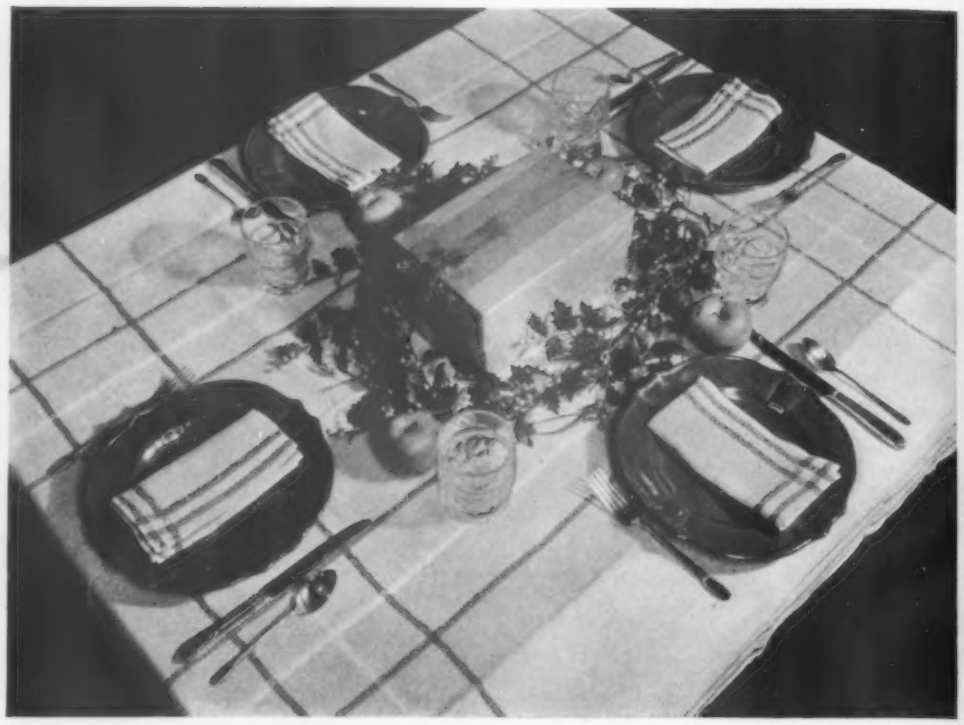
At nine o'clock throw open the doors and let the large bell suspended with red tarlaton from the chandelier be struck to peal forth a summons to a merry meal. This is the time of day for bells and singing and wide awake eyes.

"Awake and sing,
The church bells ring,
For this is Christmas morning!"

Amid the ohs and ahs which will pay you back to overflowing for your trouble, let the family find places at the table. Since it's the time of day for presents, the centerpiece might be a large box wrapped in red and white checked tissue paper and tied with red Cellophane ribbon ending in a lordly bow. An excellent center decoration as the air is heavy with secrets, suspense, and surprise. At each cover lay a nice fat roll tied with a merry red ribbon. And at the side of each glass place a bright red apple polished like mirror. Over the table scatter sprays of holly, the nice sort with plenty of big fat berries. And this is the moment for the dog to receive his present. Have it ready on the table for him: a red tarlaton collar with little bells suspended all around. Don't make him wait to try it on!

In the middle of each plate arrange a miniature red stocking. You can buy doll's stockings for this purpose. Into each stocking insert a present. These are the first presents of the day, and let them be funny. A rubber cigar for father, for mother those amusing scissors which will open only when you hold them behind your back, for small brother a telescope that

Only an exciting breakfast table can tempt the family to sit down before the packages are untied. We've made a centerpiece out of a box wrapped and tied with brilliant red Cellophane and surrounded by a frill of holly. For the table on the preceding page select your best white damask, shining silver, crystal for centerpiece and candelabra, and red, red roses



F. M. Demarest

Put out the center lights and let the soft flicker from candles fall on the happy faces around the table. This is the night of secrets and suspense and anticipation. Let informality be the keynote of the table and gaiety the sole objective of the diners

A night-before-Christmas table for one of the gayest meals of the whole year! We've used shining ruby goblets and plates, sprays of holly, and a big ruby bowl almost overflowing with enormous popcorn balls. Long runners of Italian lace on a waxed table provide the right background for this festive meal

without his knowledge will blacken his eye, and for big brother a handful of chocolate coins wrapped in silver. To three popular sisters a miniature phone, a huge diamond ring from the handy five and ten, and a hat box containing a handsome doll's hat!

Five hours slip by like so many minutes. The living room is littered with red and silver and blue papers, with seals and ribbons and cards. Will Marie give notice when she sees this? It's almost time for dinner. The crowning meal of the whole Christmas season! The doors are opening. Grandmother and grandfather lead the family procession into the dining room.

Ourselves, we hold firmly to the idea that Christmas dinner should be a traditional meal with all the classic dishes. Experiment at some other time, but confine Christmas dinner to turkey, cranberry sauce, plum pudding, and the other standard Christmas dishes. For this table we would make no concession to frivolity. Let the damask be snow white, stiff, and proud and

Candle light falls on a silvery, shimmering Cellophane cloth on this Christmas-day-in-the-evening table. In the center lies a frozen lake of mirror with tiny skaters posed upon it. High banks of artificial snow surround the plaque, flanked by crystal sticks and silver fruit. A glamorous ending to a perfect Christmas day!

formal. Set out your handsomest china, silver, and gleaming crystal. In the center of the table place an old-fashioned crystal bowl and fill it generously with big red, red Christmas roses. Across each service plate lay a single perfect red rose.

See that the plum pudding is served on a tray, and before it is brought in encircle it with tiny ten-cent store candle holders into which have been inserted tiny red candles. Light the candles just before the pudding is brought to the table. For the final course have a big brown wicker basket brought in filled with oranges, cracked nuts, and dates. Let the family hand it around from one to the other in the good old-fashioned way. And when finally the finger bowls are set before the exhausted diners, see that a sprig of holly is floating in each one.

Everyone agrees that he will never again look food in the face. But somehow—well, one has walked to the movies or to a friend's house, or tried out the skates and snow shoes. And, yes, a light pick-up lunch might be very fine in an hour or so, around eight. This is the fourth Christmas table. In the living room grown-ups are talked out; children are played out. Some one proposes music. Sister opens the

[*Please turn to page 66*]

Christmas Welcome

The principal decorative feature of the arrangement at the left is the use of stars to harmonize with the fine Adam doorway. Against a background garland of Spruce or Pine boughs are placed silver stars, while the same motif is repeated on the door panels and is used for the lighting fixture too

Elizabeth Brooks Peasley

TRIMMING the doorway for the Christmas season is an old custom that has been allowed to lapse for many years, while the outdoor Christmas trees have become more and more garish, and the modest Christmas candle in the window has grown into branched candelabra.

However, the old custom is being revived. Last year a garden club in a New England village announced that they would hold a competition for decorated doorways, and award a prize to the best and most original design in which none of the scarcer evergreens, such as Mountain Laurel or Ground Pine, had been used.

The contest was announced in the newspapers and a list of the contestants was given, so that many interested visitors came from out of town as well as from the town itself where interest in the project was keen.

The five doorways that the judges found especially worthy of mention showed a wide range of architectural types.

A Dutch Colonial doorway won the prize on account of the thought shown in designing a wreath which should show up against the dark green door, as well as the suitability of the whole design to the design of the house. The wreath was mostly white—glass fruit, leaves, and artificial snow flakes, with a background of Scotch Pine on which a red bow and some Jerusalem-cherries served as an effective foil to the white. A garland of Pine across the top of the doorway and hanging down on each side was bound at intervals with broad red ribbon bands in the Della Robbia style, with white decorations.

The doorway of a gray shingle house showed a very striking design in which red and silver Christmas-tree balls played an important part. The wreath on the door was of short needle Pine tips, decorated with red and silver balls, and tied at the top with red and silver ribbon, and a few long sprayed branches of Pine needles were bound in at the bottom of the wreath. On the long narrow windows at each side of the door were hung long sprays of cultivated Juniper decorated with red and silver balls. In each window was a candle set securely in a cluster of Pine.

An old Colonial house with tall pillars had a very dignified arrangement of dark green against white that took in the whole front of the house, little green trees being placed, one each side of the doorway, and one in front of each pillar. The big wreath on the door was made of Hemlock clippings and White Pine, with a huge spray of Jerusalem-cherry across the top taking the place of the usual ribbon bow. In the two front windows were candelabra of nine candles each, designed in pyramid shape.

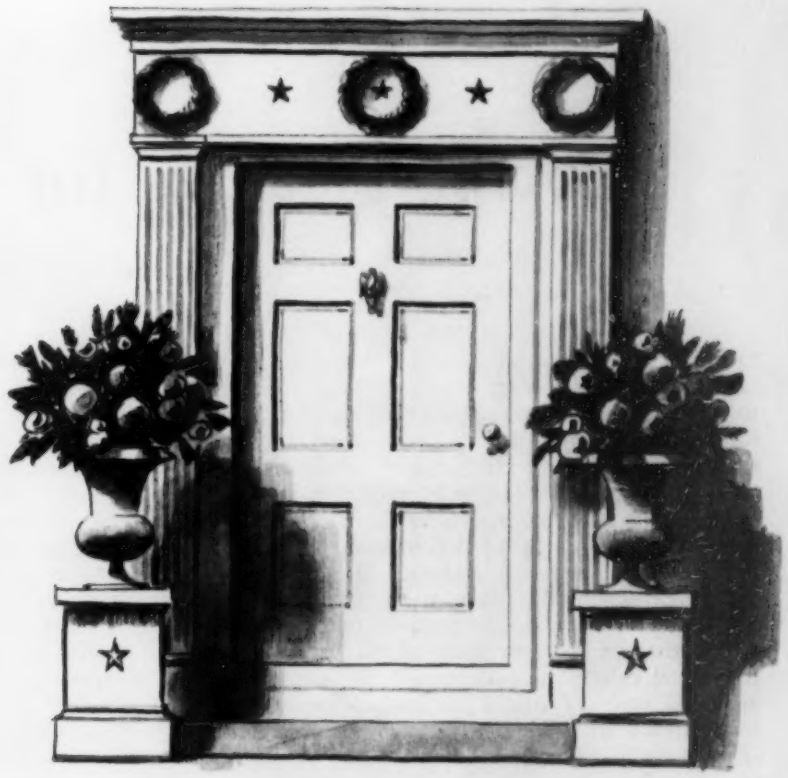
A little pale green house had its doorway decorated in silver and dark green. The wreath on the door was White Pine, Redcedar, and Spruce, with a tiny Christmas tree standing up at the bottom of the wreath, the top banded with silver ribbon, with two Sumac heads to balance the tree, and clusters of silvered Holly berries

Sketches by Harrie Wood

Above: Perched on the roof of the entrance to this house is Santa himself with his bag of toys. Drooping sprays of Arborvitae and Fir are used to frame the door and roof above it

At left: For this Dutch Colonial entrance a wreath was selected which could be seen against the dark green of the door itself. It was made of glass fruit, leaves, and artificial snow on a ground of Scotch Pine with a red bow and Jerusalem-cherries as accents. The garland is of Pine

At right: This very smart formal effect is achieved by using the garden urns as units of a balanced group. Below: A Spruce wreath and Pine branches used as a background for brightly colored Christmas tree decorations. A simple but vivid entrance decoration



Below: The owner of a butter churner can put it to good use in a decoration such as is shown here. Combined with a chestnut or wood basket and filled with green foliage the effect against a natural stone doorway is very pleasing. The garland above the doorway is composed of natural vari-colored gourds

and leaves on each side. The side windows were covered with black paper having a star cut out and the light of candles shining through. The hood over the door was decorated with White Pine and Scotch Pine, with a bell covered with Pine which was suspended from the center.

An old house of the Revolutionary period had a beautiful doorway with two bulls-eye glass windows and a massive knocker. Some of the Ivy which grows thick and close to the house was trained up around the pillars on each side of the door. On the door itself was fastened a long narrow box with cotton spilling over the side to resemble snow. In the box was a little Christmas tree trimmed with silver stars, with a very stiff red oilcloth bow at its base. Each of the downstairs windows had a cone-bearing tip of Pine tied with a red oilcloth bow, and in each of the upstairs windows was a candle.

Another doorway featured a four-foot Santa Claus perched on the roof of the entrance with his bag of toys. The edge of the roof was trimmed with drooping sprays of Arborvitae and Fir, and the doorway was edged with a narrow band of the same. On the door was a big wreath of Box, tied with a red satin bow in true Christmas style.

Many of the houses decorated were on the main street of the town, and the effect as one drove through was most attractive. The response to the idea was so enthusiastic and the results were so gratifying that it was decided to repeat the contest this year as a community affair.

Flower pictures for gifts—or for yourself

Ruth Jessie Merriam

THE neglected orphan amongst framed pictures seems always to be those bright spots of cheerful color and composition that go so well in the less formal rooms of a home. No one ever seems at a loss to know how to frame a fine old family portrait or a rich, beautiful landscape, an etching, or a photograph. But have you ever given a thought to the possibilities that lie in the framing of the casual colorful flower groupings and spots of bright design that will always, if treated right, enhance the livableness and charm of a room?

With these smaller pictures, water colors, colored woodblock prints, and dozens of others, tradition has no restraining hand. There are no limits to what you may or may not do with the mat, the glass, or the frame. Just see what we have produced, once we let ourselves go, with some of our own AMERICAN HOME covers!

For instance, take the one in the upper right-hand corner of the opposite page. Imagine the possibilities in using some colored paper (this one happens to be yellow with black polka dots), a piece of glass cut to size and ribbons (pink and white here) to bind it all together and at the same time serving as part of the mat design. The flowers we culled from July's cover.

We shall lay all our cards on the table in explaining the one below it. The white delicate formation around the picture is not lace. It is simply small paper doilies, cut into semi-circles and laid in an overlapping pattern on a light blue paper with white polka dots. The frame is off-shade white and quite inexpensive. You might try some experiments yourself with some of your old discarded frames by sanding them down to natural wood tones or painting them white.

The next one, at the bottom of the opposite page, has no tricks at all. Its effectiveness is due to the bright quality of the yellow and green flowered paper mat with fine black lines drawn on it, and to the natural wood frame with a narrow black inside moulding. Do you recognize it? It was our August, 1933, cover.

Now we come to the most unusual of all. Close inspection will reveal that the quaint spray of iris is in reality the January, 1934, AMERICAN HOME cover that has been cut away from its yellow border. On top of red and white striped paper is laid an oval paper doily, and on top of this the flowers and a very fancy actual bow of paper ribbon completes the composition. Cover with glass, bind the edges with white passé partout tape and where could you find a better example of Victorian quaintness?

The features of the one at the far left on this page are the matting and binding. Red and white diagonal candy striped paper overlaid with white criss-crossed Cellophane forms the mat. The glass is simply held in place by pasting gold seal stickers—the kind any stationery carries—around the edge.

Try figuring out your own combinations of frames and mats for the pictures for the children's room, for your own bedrooms or for gifts. Fancy wrapping papers, passé partout binding, some gay spots of color, and a pair of shears —and you will be surprised and delighted at the results. Don't limit yourself to any combinations of materials. You might even try taking the pressed flowers out of the family album and

arranging them under glass. But always bear in mind that about one half of the effectiveness of small casual wall pictures lies in the taste and charm of the framing selected—not the intrinsic value of the pictures themselves.

Give your imagination free rein in mounting and framing some of your favorite magazine covers or other prints that you have been collecting for a long time and did not know quite what to do with. Charming effects may be produced at very little expense by using some of the accessories that are shown here: passé partout type, paper doilies, ribbon, and scissors

Merry Christmas from us to you.

THE ENTIRE EDITORIAL STAFF

Culver Service

"Furmety for pottage and venison fine"

The theme is an old one, but for more than a year Miss Plumb searched old books and manuscripts in the British Museum and through the British Antiquarian Reports of the Archeological Society to give us the origin of Christmas dining. Together the authors present here a most unusual and delightful story of Christmas festival customs—with authentic old recipes that include one three hundred years old

Beatrice Plumb and Clementine Paddleford

THE evolution of our Christmas dinner is a story of robust, merry feasting, of wholesale hospitality reaching down the centuries. Just where and when the first Christmas feast was laid, records fail to tell. But by the eleventh century old manuscripts report strange and marvelous dishes loading the long tables in the holly decked banquet halls where with "mirth and princely cheare" our husky ancestral cousins dined during twelve days of bountiful yuletide feasting.

"Roger," one can imagine a medieval lady saying to her lord as she planned the menu for Christmas Day, "get me the yuletide bird, and see that his feathers are of the handsomest."

And her lord and his men, having brought home the bacon, medievally known as the Boar's Head, would then sally forth for the Christmas peacock.

The autocratic peacock graced the tables of England's great feudal lords as the democratic turkey graces ours today. Skinned before roasting, stuffed with spices and sweet herbs, and then reclothed with its own feathers, it was finally brought to the banqueting hall, not by a servant, but in stately pageant by the "first lady" of that distinguished company. To the strains of music the honored guest, attended by her retinue of lovely young maidens, carried in Juno's bird. Around it flocked young knights-errant to make their solemn vows over its feathers, and pledge their swords to the romantic adventure of rescuing fair maidens in distress.

The bird was dry eating—even the cooks of that far-from-finicky day admitted it—but, served in all its gorgeous plumage, with its bill gilded to a glittering gold, it was something to at least feast the eyes upon. Nor was it always a dry bird! For sometimes the beak held a sponge saturated with a fiery fluid that, once ignited, rose in rollicking flame—as no lemonade ever did! And there was always gravy; tubs of gravy, though we doubt the story of three fat wethers being needed to make gravy for one bird.

Even the proud peacock was preceded by the ceremonial of bringing in the boar's head, a custom of greater antiquity. It had become a tradition

Did you know that plum pudding was intended originally to suggest the richness of the Wise Men's gifts? That mince pies were at first made oval to represent the cradle and that in the original form were more meat than sweet? Or that plum pudding, in its earliest stages, was a liquid concoction served in a soup tureen?

as early as 1170, when records tell of the ceremony being performed "according to the manner"—or as decreed by the Emily Post of those days.

Let's stand aside and see how they do it. There is a good deal of music outside, profuse rather than refined, like the menu. Then, in bursts the jester, more gaily goofy than ever. *Ah! The Boar's Head!* Instantly the entire company rises to its feet as though the radio had suddenly burst forth into "O say can you see—?"

Two handsomely costumed heralds raise silver trumpets to their lips. Before the notes have died away, the chief cook carries in a massive silver platter on which is the boar's head, garnished, not with a wispy bit of parsley, as we trim our roast pig today, but with a substantial wreath of bay, with sprigs of rosemary in its ears and a roasted red apple placed in its mouth.

The lordly dish is followed by the minstrels, and then come the upper servants, each carrying aloft some lesser dish, that is to grace the Christmas board. And thus the menu moves in regal state to the high table, while the minstrels sing that age-hoary carol appropriate at this time:

The Boar's Head in hand bear I,
Bedecked with bays and rosemary;
And I pray you, my masters, be merry,
Quot estis in convivio.

The Boar's Head, as I understand,
Is the chief service in this land;
Which thus bedecked with a gay garland,
Servite cum cantico.

This is the same carol that the young Oxonian sang when the pig's head was carried in at Squire Bracebridge's Christmas dinner Washington Irving wrote about a half a dozen centuries later. The old squire, you will remember, insisted upon the custom "not merely because it is stately and pleasing in itself, but because it was observed at the college of Oxford" where he was educated.

To this day the ceremony of the Boar's Head is still carried out at Oxford, where a fellow of Queen's College sings the famous carol—the earliest printed carol extant—as the grim Boar's Head is borne in on a platter and placed before the Provost at the "high table."

Not only in England, but in many lands, pig plays a special rôle in the Christmas menu. Historians argue over its significance. It may be that the bringing in of the pig's head to table has a symbolic renunciation of heathenism; men ate that by which their ancestors had sworn. Perhaps the best explanation is furnished by the medieval interpretation of the 80th Psalm: where Satan is "the Wild Boar out of the wood" who has long wasted the vineyard of the Lord. Now his head is carried in triumph as a testimony of his final defeat. But whatever its significance, when one recalls what was accounted good eating in those robust days, it cannot be denied that there was something piggily appropriate in that initial form of dish.

What else did those husky revelers eat? What didn't they? From ancient account, surely gastronomic capacities must have been enlarged for the occasion, as the energies expand to meet great emergencies. One writer, John of Salisbury, tells of a Christmas feast that began at three o'clock in the afternoon and ended at midnight, when delicacies were brought from such remote places as Constantinople, Syria, Egypt, and Babylon. A fifteenth-century manuscript gives us a rhyming list of subordinate dishes that fairly makes one calory-dizzy! Oh, the variety of birds that were enthroned on the yuletide table in those dark ages before the turkey strutted out of the American prairie, about 154, to top the bill! Read this procession in verse of five hundred years ago:

"Then comes the second course with great pride;
The cranes, the herons, the bitterns by their side,
The partridge, the plover, the woodcock, and the snipe;
Larks in hot 'schow'—"

But that's enough. We never cared much for roast crane, did you? And even though "schow" might be something quite respectable, there would still be a dead lark in it!

But in those days the eager eaters "had sharp stomaches as well as sharp knives." The only recorded instance in which there was a failure in good stomachs is that historic one which occurred in the Court of King Arthur, when the Christmas gaiety was disturbed by the interference of the Boy with the Mantle. Under this test of that Imp of Discord, there was but one knight of all the hungry knights, who sat at the Round Table, whose weapon was sharp enough to carve the boar's head or hand steady enough to carry his cup to his lips without spilling the lamb's wool.

Yet little wonder! Listen to the things described by Whistlecraft as served when King Arthur kept Christmas "in merry Carleile" with Queen Guenevere "that bride so bright of blee."

"They served up salmon, venison and wild boars
By hundreds and by dozens and by scores
Hogsheads of honey, kilderkins of mustard,
Muttons and fatted beeves and bacon swine;
Herons and bitterns, peacocks, swan and bustard,
Teal, mallard, pigeons, widgeons, and in fine
Plum puddings, pancakes, apple pies and custard
And there withal they drank good gascon wine,
With mead and ale and cider of our own
For porter, punch and negus were not known."

Swans were a common Christmas dainty in 1500. The Duke of Northumberland's household accounts for the year 1512 show five swans were dished up for dinner on Christmas Day, and another four on Twelfth Day. It is cheering to note that a menu of fifty years later, while still retaining the roast swan, includes a goose and a "turkie"! Yet they insisted upon boiling, not roasting, King Turk, even to the days of Queen Victoria. Boiled, and with celery sauce was the orthodox way to serve him.

And the roast beef of Old England, the huge sirloin, whether boiled or roasted, the great sides of roast beef so loved by our forefathers, a savory reminder of the bulls sacrificed by the Druids when the sacred mistletoe was cut! Perhaps the old story of Sir Loin knighted by Charles II is all a myth, but a "baron of beef" (that is two sirloins not cut apart, but joined by the end of the backbone) is still the Christmas roast for the King of England's table. And in many a humble home, the main dish for the great dinner is the sirloin roast, which has been hung from seven to ten days.

"Cold roast beef, mince pie and beer" seemed to be Sir Roger de Coverley's idea of what to serve at these twelve-day hand-outs. "I love," he says, "to rejoice the hearts of the poor at this Christmas season, and to see the whole village merry in my great hall. I allow a double quantity of malt to my small beer, and set it running for twelve days to everyone that calls for it. I have always a piece of cold beef and a mince pie upon the table, and I love to see my tenants pass away a whole evening in playing their innocent games."

Where are the vegetables? They were included all right, but not

Bringing in the boar's head had become a tradition as early as 1170. To this day the ceremony of the Boar's Head is still carried out at Oxford, where a fellow of Queens College sings the famous carol—the earliest printed carol extant—as the grim Boar's Head is borne in and placed before the Provost at the "high table"

made a fuss over by writers of the day. There were roots and pot herbs such as beets, carrots, coleworts, parsnips, salsafy, skirrets, and turnips. Potatoes were introduced in 1586, but they were a rarity until after the Restoration. People were afraid of them. Some thought that "if a man ate them every day, he could not live beyond seven years." Anyhow folks didn't have a taste for them perhaps because of the uninviting potato recipes. *The Accomplished Cook*, a book much in use about 1700, says that potatoes must be "boiled and blanched; seasoned with nutmeg, cinnamon, and pepper; mixed with eringo roots, dates, lemon, and whole mace; covered with butter, sugar, and grape verjuice, made with pastry; then iced with rosewater and sugar and yclept a 'Secret Pye'," —whatever that may mean—your guess is as good as ours.

One indispensable old-time Christmas dish which is never heard of today was furmety, or frumenty, which according to the oldest recipe now extant was "wheat boiled till the grains burst, and when cool strained and boiled again with broth or milk and yolks of eggs."

That famous old rhymed menu of the fifteenth century says, "Furmety for pottage and venison fine." And that is all furmety was in the first place—the correct accompaniment of fat venison or fresh mutton. A prosaic "pottage" with no ambition whatever to be a plum pudding!

And how did that plainly nourishing mutton broth ever become "plum porridge"—a fearful and wonderful mess, thickened with brown bread but still served as a semi-liquid from a soup tureen?

That boiled wheat mixture must have been pretty awful; for every Christmas we find somebody trying to do something about it by adding an egg or two, a dash of mace, a slice of ginger cake, or a handful of raisins, currants, or prunes. Then the whole concoction was boiled up into a pulp—but still served in a soup tureen! It still hadn't reached the boiled-in-a-basin stage.

Later the prunes—dried plums—were supplanted by other ingredients, and lumps of good English suet were added, until about 1670 the old pottage, after centuries of culinary evolution, had sweetened and stiffened into plum pudding, much as we now eat it.

And the modern mince pie? That, too, in its original form was more meat than sweet. Crippen gives a recipe from a manuscript written in 1394. If we modernize the wording, it runs:

"Take a pheasant, a hare, a capon, two partridges, two pigeons, and two conies. *Chop them up*, take out as many bones as you can, and add the livers and hearts, two kidneys of a sheep, force meat made into balls with eggs, pickled mushrooms, salt, pepper, spice, and vinegar. Boil the bones in a pot to make a good broth; put the meat into a crust of good paste, 'made craftily into the likeness of a bird's body'; pour in the liquor, close it up and bake it well. And so serve it forth, with the head of one of the birds at one end and a great tail at the other, and divers of his long feathers set cunningly all about him."

One feels that this enterprising cook, while retaining all the trimmings of the famous peacock dish, had evolved a way to make the eating less dry and tough. Those three significant words, "chop them up," may have ushered in the centuries of chopping that made Christmas cooking a chore!

Two hundred years later, in Herrick's time, the famous Christmas pie had become a little more like its modern descendant, the mince pie. It still called for neats' tongue and chicken, but added to these were eggs, raisins, orange and lemon peel, sugar, and various spices. So that it was:

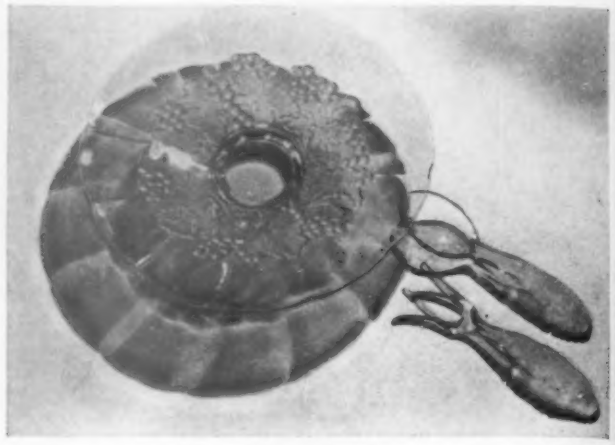
"A mixture strange of suet, currants, meat,
Where various tastes combine, the greasy
and the sweet."

It was called "shrid (shredded) pye" or "minc'd pye" in the cook books of 1661. Also in certain religious tracts of that day it was called "Idolatrie in crust!" Because it was shaped like the Manger of Bethlehem, and the richness of its ingredients were symbolic. "Doth not the minced pye," asks a writer of that day, "a compound of the choicest productions of the East, have in view the offerings of the wise men who came from afar bringing spices?" [*Please turn to page 58*]

Gifts—

"Constitution" is the name of this dignified Federal lamp, of brass with black trim and crystal prisms. The shade is of gold taffeta, bound with the same and reefed with black. Chase Brass & Copper Co.

Of Chinese Chippendale inspiration is a graceful hanging bookshelf, also delightful for one's favorite little ornaments and knick-knacks. Baker Furniture Factories



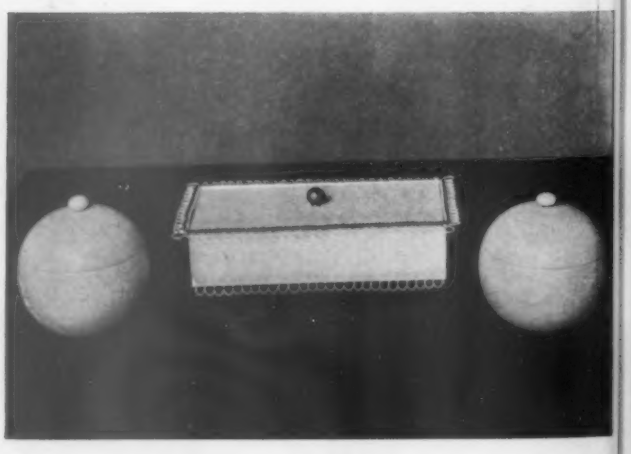
Of crystal, clear with a delightful frosted design, is a huge round platter, for sandwiches or cold cuts or salads, with matching serving fork and spoon. From E. Wanda Baker

Milady's dressing table will be all the more lovely for a mirror framed in white wire, and a powder box to match. The glass powder container is divided inside, for perfect convenience. From Ovington's

No one need go without flowers these days, with such perfect artificial ones available. This huge box is filled with a variety which will provide bouquets for every room in the house, and for every possible mood! From the California Artificial Flower Co.

Of pewter is this Poole platter with well and tree. Its strikingly simple design is dignified and at home for any dinner whether the table be set for very formal or informal service

As acceptable and quaint as can be is a little maple footstool with a comfortable cushioned top. From H. T. Cushman & Co.



There is a crackled finish on these bone white accessories for the dressing table, the very newest thing. The metal box for cold cream papers has a graceful wire edge, and the round powder boxes are of wood. They come from Ovington's

for the home

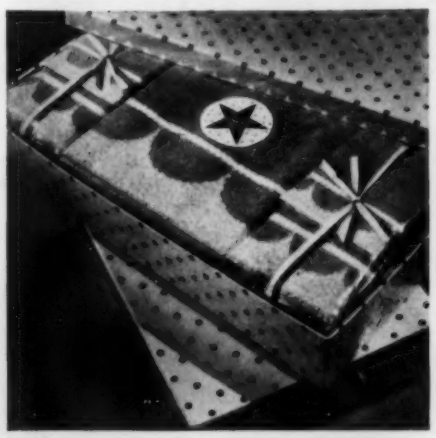
Woodenware is extremely nice for informal entertaining, and now you can have almost your entire service in wood. Hammacher, Schlemmer & Co. have a wooden salad bowl and serving implements with crystal ball feet, wooden goblet, serving and salad plates, knife and fork with wooden handles

Gift suggestions of food in attractive wrappings will be found on page 44

The Waverly desk set in the new Kensington metal makes a pleasant gift for man or woman. Its extremely simple design but definite decorative quality gives it real distinction

If you are giving potted plants for Christmas, consider these gay flower pots to hold them. There are attractive designs and interesting colors for everyone. From Carbone, Inc.

A comfortable wing chair is a thing no home ought to be without! This one, in antique pine with sturdy upholstery material, is particularly roomy and comfortable. It comes from Charak Furniture Co.



Because its polka-dotted box with the scalloped edge looks just like a well-dressed closet shelf, this gift set of Cannon bath towels is called the Closet Box Bath Set. 5- or 7-piece assortments

No more lukewarm tea! Here is a little stand in crystal or topaz with a fat candle inside which will keep the tea at just the right temperature as it stands on the metal plate. Fostoria—Lewis & Conger

Garden clubs have put their seal of approval on the shape of this vase, which is made of the new Kensington metal, and is simply though decoratively designed

For magazines or music in a new stand strongly constructed of metal. It comes from the Chase Brass & Copper Company

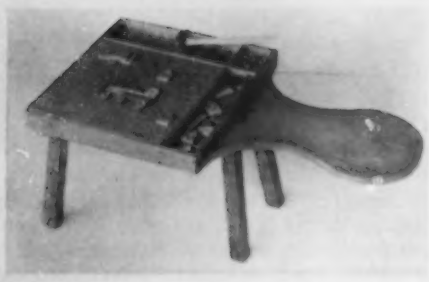
Severely classic is a sterling silver dressing table set, the brush and mirror with conveniently long and graceful handles. It is made by the International Silver Company

Gifts— for children

The droll expression on this nursery beastie will intrigue any child and before he knows it, he will know how to tell time. Warren Telechron have given a thought to children in this clock, called "Smug"

Among the new books for children are these fascinating titles, beautifully illustrated, and many more there is not room to show. You will find a list of books on page 46. From Lord & Taylor's Bookshop

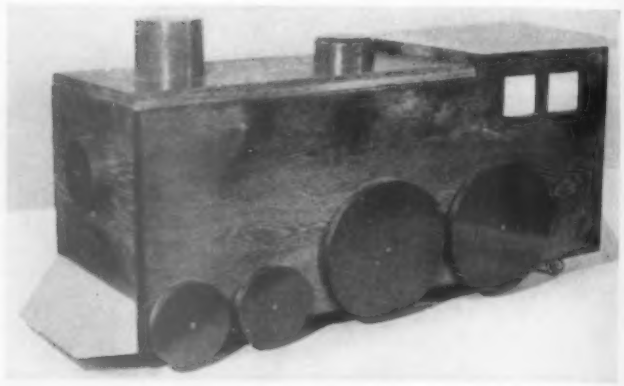
Here is a clipper ship to make, with all the necessary parts ready cut, even to the flag, anchor, and sails, along with simple directions. From Daniel Low & Company



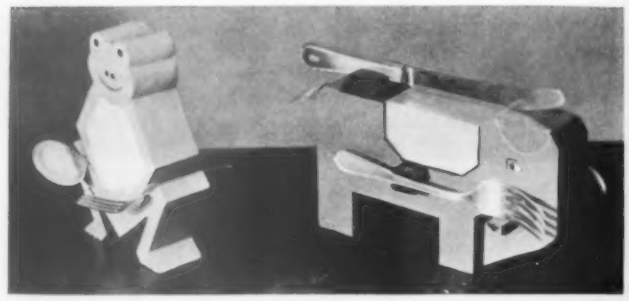
Britannica, Junior, is the new edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, written for a juvenile readership, and housed in a grand, practical bookcase of molded Bakelite. The globe on top is a fitting touch

Let your child develop imagination and poise with a toy theatre! An English firm has brought out a miniature stage, with back drops and characters that can be moved around. Abercrombie & Fitch

Left: Like the cobbler's bench his parents have in front of the fire is this miniature, made into a capital work-bench. Different designs can be nailed together on the soft working board. Abercrombie & Fitch



Here is a toy chest that should stir the imagination of any young engineer-to-be! The hinged boiler top of the engine serves as the lid of the chest, and there is a compartment for books in the "cab." It comes from Bird & Johnson



A set of flat silver might not seem exciting in competition with amusing toys, but what child could resist them when carried gaily by a pert frog or a sly elephant! International Silver Co.

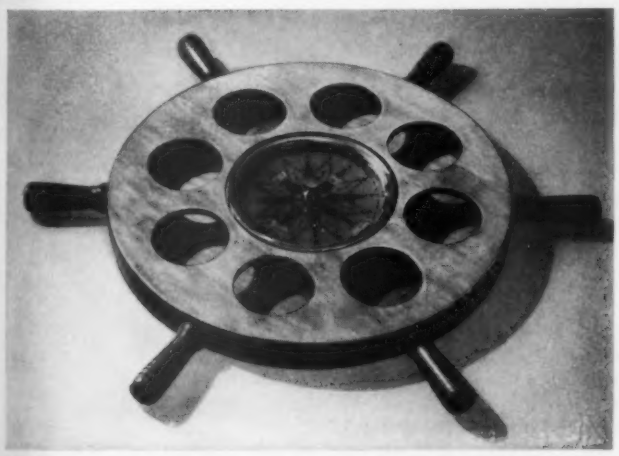
There is a new element in child education, the typewriter. Experiments and research show it to be of educational value both at home and in school, and Remington have brought out a Noiseless Portable that is quite perfect for the purpose

If Junior can get it ahead of his Dad, he will be thrilled with a new ship construction book. With it he can build five ships, modeled after famous ships of history—The Santa Maria, the Mayflower, the Constitution, Flying Cloud, and a New Bedford whaler, with history of each, all for $2.75

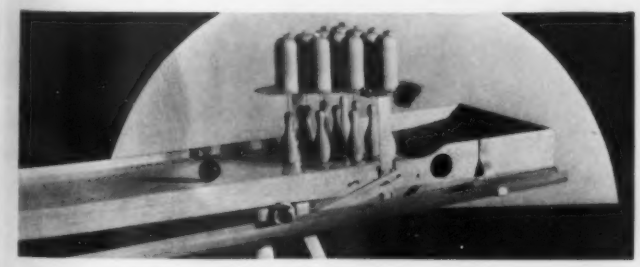
—and for men

Now you can have a handsome cover for your favorite tin of cigarettes. These separate covers come with different designs to suit your temperament or any particular occasion—a dog, a horse, a tennis racquet—and simply snap onto your regular tin of cigarettes. From Bernard Rice's Sons, Inc.

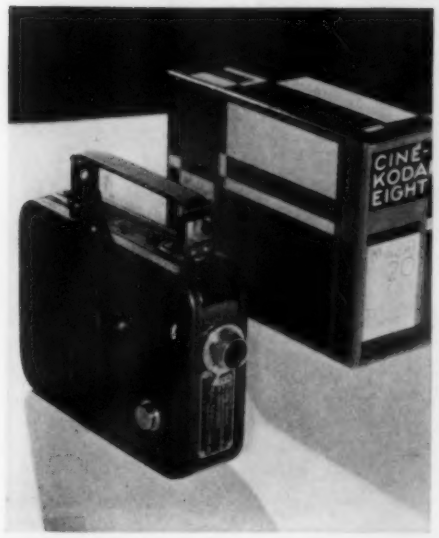
Photographs by
F. M. Demarest



If your men friends are nautically-minded, send them a tray like this with places for eight glasses and revolving cocktail recipe device in the center. From John Wanamaker



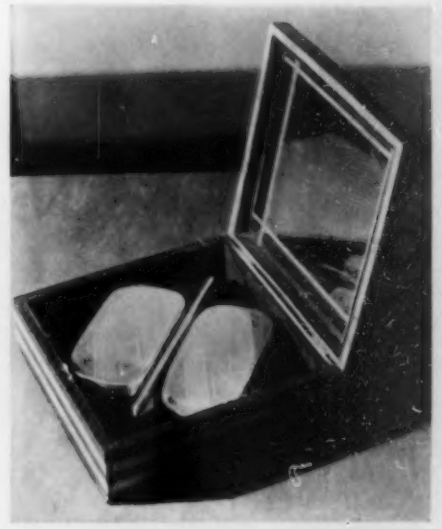
Spalding's are bringing out a new Bowling Game, with pins attached to elastics. If you want to assure a fine time for all, be sure one of your friends receives this for Christmas



A Ciné-Kodak Eight will be invaluable in recording the adventures and good times of all the family. An Eastman Kodak

If he *must* read his paper at breakfast, keep him from tipping over the cream with his newspaper by giving him one of these convenient stands, made of brass wire. From the Chase Brass & Copper Company

A slight press of Scotty's tail will open this little humidor, which comes from Spalding's



Silver-backed military brushes, beautifully packed in a mirrored box, make a perfect gift for a man. International Silver Co.

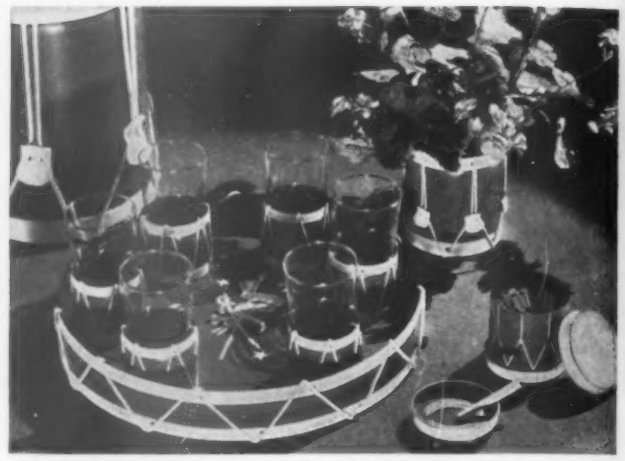
The head of his favorite breed of dog may be reproduced on new glasses for the man of the family. From Abercrombie & Fitch

Here is the General Electric Workshop, for the man who loves tools and knows how to use them. All compact and complete, this will make a most unique gift

Gifts—

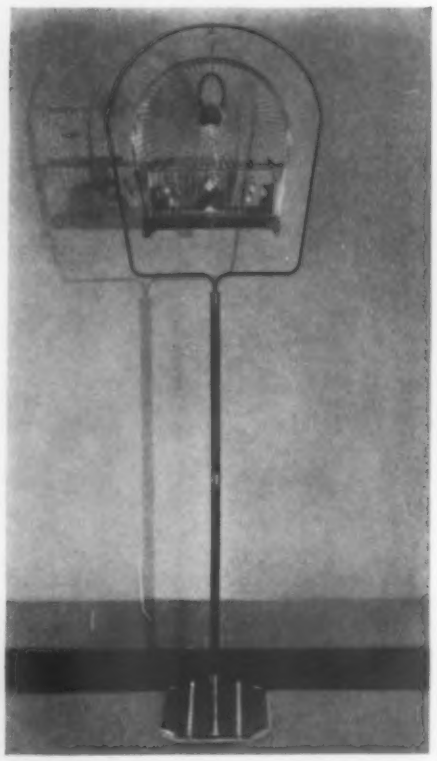
For bridge, the newest thing is a tip-top table which, with flower-painted top, can serve as a fire screen when not in use. From Ferguson Bros. Manufacturing Co.

For the person who is fond of Colonial furnishings, here is a perfect little lamp, which can be used in a dozen different places. In metal, with cut-out stars to decorate the shade. The Lightolier Co.



Drums are very popular these days, and here is a whole set of them, designed for entertaining. A drum top tray, beverage glasses, flower vase, and even cigarette holder and ash tray, make it complete. Lyda Norton & Al Bolender

What more perfect gift can one imagine than a ticket for one of the fascinating cruises now being planned by the big steamship companies? You can go around the world, or to Bermuda, South America, the West Indies—the land of your dreams!

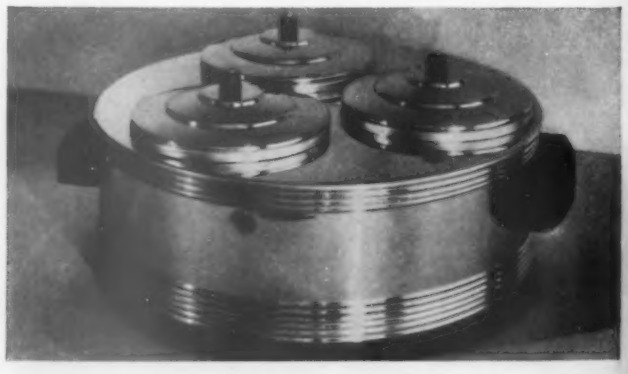


Left—There will be no housing problem for your birds if you keep them in a decorative cage like this one, in colors to match your room, with bright metal, by way of contrast. From Hammacher, Schlemmer & Co., Inc.

A new idea for hot rolls, hot dogs, or sandwiches, is a wooden "scoop" with painted decorations on the sides—particularly useful indeed for the informal party. From Ovington's

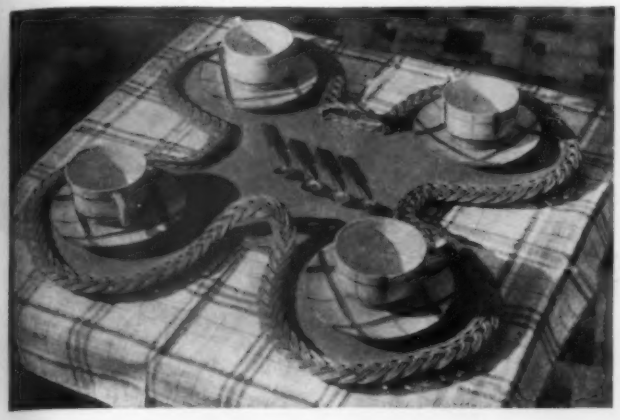
Here is a blanket bound with Truhu crêpe, an exceptionally fine, durable, and beautiful silk binding. The blanket, known as "Famous," is 72 x 90″. Kenwood Mills

Below—This gaily painted tray is a foursome for after-bridge refreshments. Its little glass dishes will hold ice cream or sandwiches or what you will. Ovington's

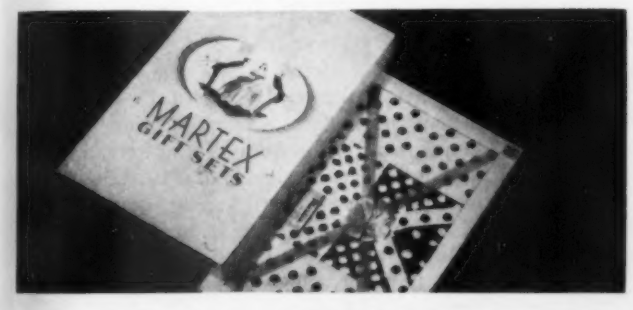


Of chromium with Pyrex food containers is an electric snack server for the family breakfast, the party supper, or any occasion when it is desirable to keep food hot. This is a Chase novelty and may be obtained from Lewis & Conger

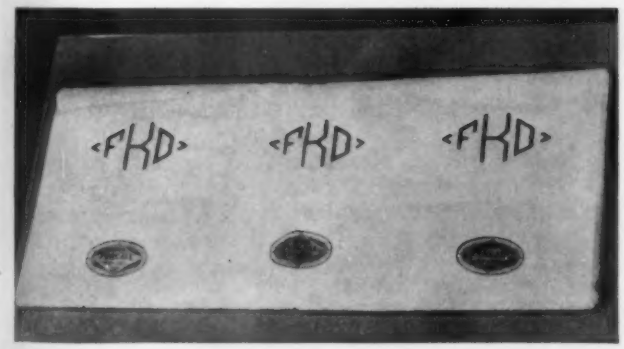
for anybody



Shaped like a four-leaf clover is a new tray, which can be completely set in the kitchen and brought in with refreshments after the game of bridge. Handles make it easy to carry without spilling a thing. Hammacher, Schlemmer & Co., Inc.



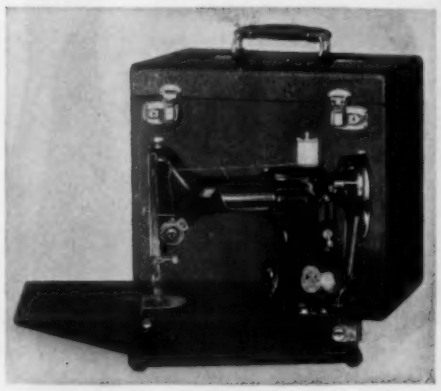
Delightfully tied up in special Christmas packages are Martex towel gift sets, which of course come in all the new colors and in many different patterns. Very acceptable for a bride



A monogram gives the final touch to the perfect gift, and Utica sheets can be ordered with any three letters. Wrapped in Cellophane, they make a gift which will be much appreciated

A scatter-size domestic hooked rug is patterned after some fine European designs, and will fit into any room ensemble. Especially at home with maple. From the Firth Carpet Co.

Sterling silver containers for the Worcestershire and Tabasco sauces that must be served in their own bottles make a charming gift to the hostess or the bachelor who does a lot of entertaining. The Watson Co.



A carrying case only 13 x 8 x 12 inches will hold the new featherweight portable Singer sewing machine, which weighs only 11 pounds, case and all, and is a gift which will indeed deserve everlasting gratitude

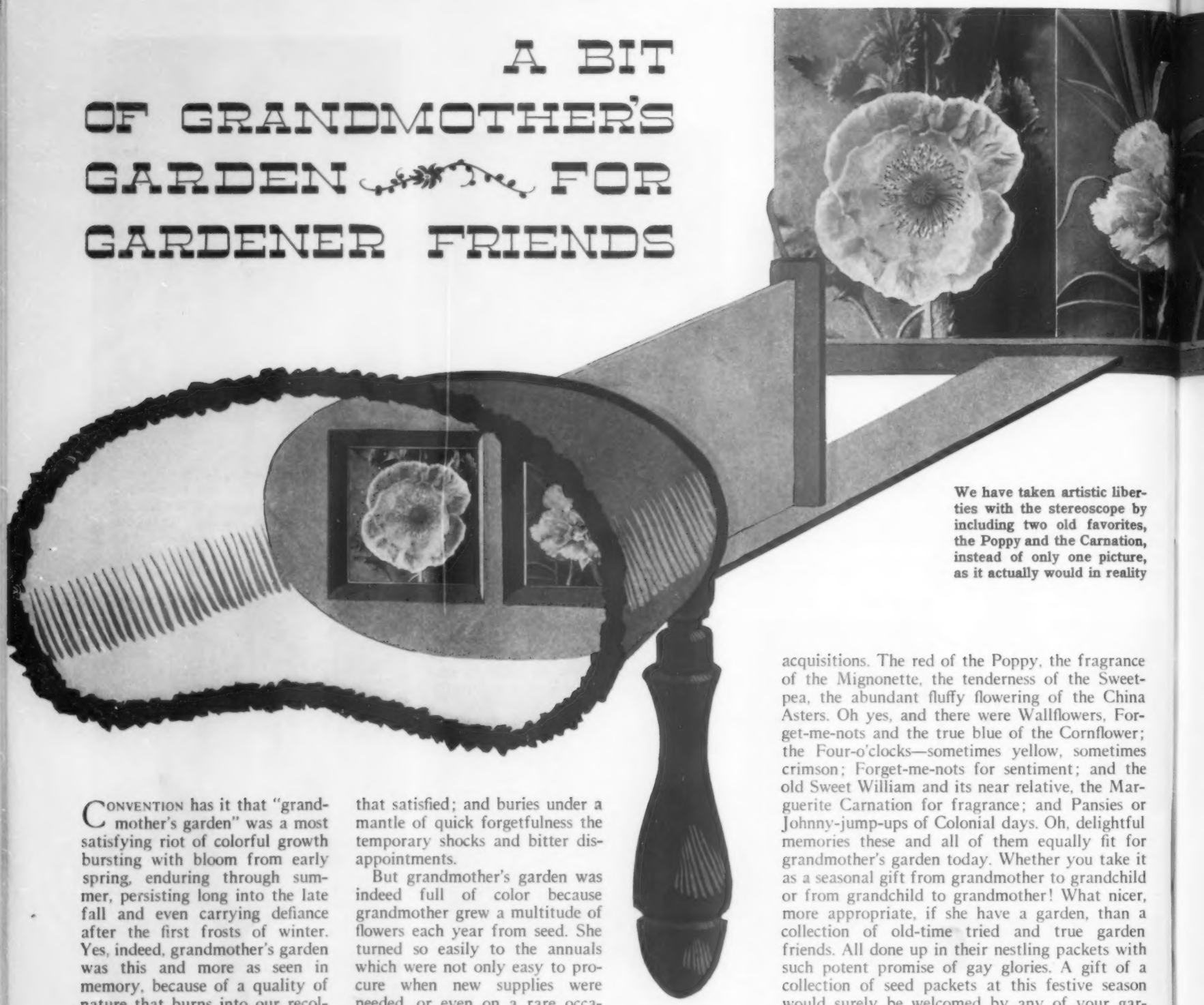
It fits in anywhere, the new Westclox Pickwick—at home or in the traveling bag. Small and compact, in black and nickel finish, it has a luminous dial and hinged back

The Metropolitan Museum of Art issues perfectly beautiful color prints of paintings hanging in their galleries, for the thoughtful Christmas gift. The one reproduced, 8″ x 10″, is "The Adoration of the Kings," of the early Flemish School. These are only $1 each, and come in portfolios of six for $5. The museum also has a fine selection of Christmas cards of unique charm

A pierced brass gallery adds a distinctive finish to a round coffee table of particularly graceful design. From the Kittinger Co.

The new Sunbeam electric coffeemaker has a glass rod to serve as valve between the two bowls, thus eliminating the need for coffee straining. Its "collar" and handle are of jet black Bakelite. Made by the Chicago Flexible Shaft Company

A BIT OF GRANDMOTHER'S GARDEN FOR GARDENER FRIENDS



We have taken artistic liberties with the stereoscope by including two old favorites, the Poppy and the Carnation, instead of only one picture, as it actually would in reality

CONVENTION has it that "grandmother's garden" was a most satisfying riot of colorful growth bursting with bloom from early spring, enduring through summer, persisting long into the late fall and even carrying defiance after the first frosts of winter. Yes, indeed, grandmother's garden was this and more as seen in memory, because of a quality of nature that burns into our recollections with an undying memory of the things that were splendid, that satisfied; and buries under a mantle of quick forgetfulness the temporary shocks and bitter disappointments.

But grandmother's garden was indeed full of color because grandmother grew a multitude of flowers each year from seed. She turned so easily to the annuals which were not only easy to procure when new supplies were needed, or even on a rare occasion an entirely new thing was wanted; but grandmother even saved her own seeds and carried on from year to year with a complacent self-satisfaction that stamped everything that she did.

Grandmother's garden began when grandmother was quite a young girl. She carried on with the traditions and the sentimental recollections of her earlier days of the flowers that were easy to pluck in the moonlight walks. The flowers that shed fragrance over the sheltering bowers, the summer house and arbors, were the flowers that persisted in her mind and lived through the years. Grandmother's garden was even somewhat disorderly, in that it lacked the geometric balance and precise effect of static plantings. It was an unfolding each year. The same flowers? Ah, but what different pictures they made each season! No two seasons alike. Very rarely were there new acquisitions. The red of the Poppy, the fragrance of the Mignonette, the tenderness of the Sweet-pea, the abundant fluffy flowering of the China Asters. Oh yes, and there were Wallflowers, Forget-me-nots and the true blue of the Cornflower; the Four-o'clocks—sometimes yellow, sometimes crimson; Forget-me-nots for sentiment; and the old Sweet William and its near relative, the Marguerite Carnation for fragrance; and Pansies or Johnny-jump-ups of Colonial days. Oh, delightful memories these and all of them equally fit for grandmother's garden today. Whether you take it as a seasonal gift from grandmother to grandchild or from grandchild to grandmother! What nicer, more appropriate, if she have a garden, than a collection of old-time tried and true garden friends. All done up in their nestling packets with such potent promise of gay glories. A gift of a collection of seed packets at this festive season would surely be welcomed by any of your gardening friends. Moreover, it is an enduring remembrance burgeoning into greater living realities with the first warm days of the coming spring! And then the flowers of next summer recreating the memories of a gracious thought and foresight at this time.

And Delphiniums and Hollyhocks! Are you restricted to varieties? Oh, no, indeed! In re-creating the spirit of grandmother's garden we need not be too literal; for, in fact, the world does move. Today, the contemporary prototypes of all of the old-time favorites are vastly superior. No longer must the Poppy be blatant red. In keeping with refinement of modern culture you can have it in all the pastel pinks under the name of Shirley Poppy and the newer Pansies are more gorgeous than the ancient, and bigger too. The Nasturtiums are now fully double with all the gorgeous color that grandmother had in the singles. Modern Delphiniums are something to write home about, indeed. More costly, indeed, are those products of the modern specialists who save a few seeds from a few hand-crossed flowers and a few selected flowers, but modern Delphiniums are twice as big and more enduring than the old-timers. And China Asters in a great range of

fluffy, threadlike or quilled balls and with a tendency to revert to the simplicity of the single flower—light pink, blue, purple, and red. Paris Daisies in a variety of colors—indeed!

The modern garden in the spirit of grandmother's garden can be vastly more beautiful, more luxurious, more colorful now than the thing it memorizes. Some of the seedsmen make up collections of modern types of old-time favorites which would be welcome to grandmother who may see some of the things of the past through magnifying glasses, and to keep the modern young housekeeper fully abreast with contemporary progress while yet expressing the spirit of the old. This is modernism for the old-time garden. Can you think of a better gift for your garden friends than a well-thought-out selection of seed packets of such old-time favorites?

Here are some popular flowers belonging to Colonial Days offered for sale in Massachusetts in 1760: Lavender, Lemon African Marigold, Branching Larkspur, Hyssop, Tall Hollyhock, Iceplant, Canterbury Bells, Dwarf Mountain Pink, Ranunculus, Colchicum, Indian Pink, Lobelia, Rose Campion, Red Hawkweed, French Marigold, Thyme, Purple Stock, Sweet Rocket, Gladiolus, Persian Iris, Scarlet Cacalia, Catchfly, Snap Dragon, Cape Marigold, Carnation Poppy, Tree Mallows, Scabiosa, Sweet William, Curled Mallows, Star Bethlehem, Lupine, Convolvulus, Summer Savory, Sweetpea, Globe Amaranthus, Everlasting, Pink, Honesty, Starry Scabiosa, Mixed Tulip Roots. Surely enough to choose from for a good gift now!

Those who cherish sentimental or romantic memories of by-gone days will find in this fantastic bouquet a few of the old-time flowers that recall these memories: Pansy, Sweet William, Forget-me-not, Cornflower, and Four-o'clock

Old Masters Studio, Inc.

Is your room piano conscious?

Marie Bell McCoy

The piano's real reason for existence is that of producing fine music in the home. The new pianos not only do this, but happily fit into modern decorative schemes in the small home. If Santa brings you the coveted gift of a new piano, here are rules for its care and protection—and a few ideas for making the most of it decoratively

THE fact that a piano may have been a legacy from great-aunt Minnie, or that its wood is so beautiful that some day you plan to have something else made out of it, is neither reason nor excuse for keeping it. But if there are musicians or music students in your family or among your friends, or if you enjoy an occasional *musikabend*, do give a little more thought to the placing and care of your piano than does the average owner.

In the first place, the instrument should not be treated primarily as an article of furniture. Unquestionably, the appearance of the modern piano, which is the instrument we shall consider in these first paragraphs, is a happy improvement upon the styles of the past, especially the new spinets for Colonial living rooms. However, the usual piano is still a Vexatious Topicke for most decorators. What must be remembered—first, last, and always—is that the piano's real reason for existence is to produce music.

With this in mind, consider first of all the proper placing of a piano in a room. This consideration, of course, involves not only the piano itself, but also its relation to light, to changing temperatures, and to other furnishings. We may take a very profitable tip in this connection from those persons best informed upon the subject—the professional pianists. How do they treat these various matters?

Recall, if you will, the arrangement of a concert platform. Invariably, the piano is set with its straight left side toward the back of the stage—and usually parallel to it, while the curved right side swings out toward the audience. There is a sound reason back of this arrangement. That curve of the paino is not just somebody's idea of ornamentation. It is there to accommodate the different lengths of the piano strings, and the strings on the short right side are the light treble tones, while the heavy long strings at the left produce the low bass tones. Therefore, in placing the piano with the curved side toward the listeners in the audience, the lighter tones of the high treble strings are heard clearly above the rumbling accompaniment of the heavy bass strings of the instrument.

Remember this point in placing your own piano. Keep that heavy left side away from the listener. Very often it is possible to place it directly against one of the walls of the room. This will produce an exceptionally good effect, not only from a musical standpoint but from the standpoint of decoration as well. For the curved side, set toward the center of the room, is much more pleasing to the eye than the cumbersome left side. This curve also affords a graceful niche in which a singer or violinist may stand with good effect at your home musicales. Furthermore, this placing brings the performer at the keyboard into proper relation to his listeners, for no pianist—whether he be man, woman, or child—relishes playing with his back to his audience.

In placing your piano, try to obtain a position where a steady light from a window will fall across the shoulder of the person seated at the keyboard. A light that falls directly from behind is not so desirable for it may cast the shadow of the performer upon the music rack. Inasmuch as the reading of music is more or less trying under the best of conditions, particular attention should be given to this matter of lighting. Above all things, do not place your piano so that the player will be obliged to look directly into the light.

Lighting at night should, if possible, fall from the same direction as the daylight. This is particularly desirable if children use the piano for practice. Frequently their practice periods, especially in winter, overlap from daylight to dark, and it is surprising how the simple necessity of adjusting a light to his position at the piano will disturb even the most earnest of young players. A lamp placed in front of the window or slightly to one side proves an admirable solution of this problem. Choose this lamp as carefully as you choose lamps for other reading,

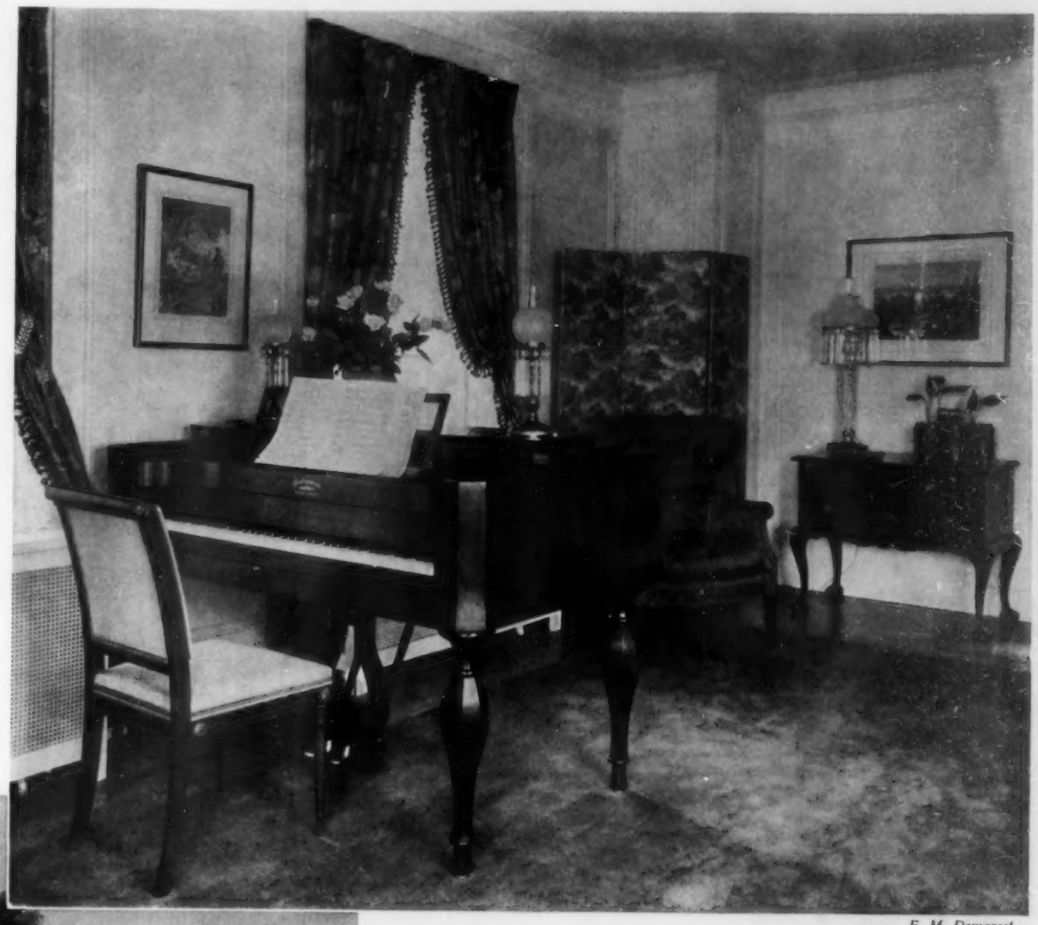
always bearing in mind that a steady, diffused light is much the best kind. Some pianists like an indirect-ray lamp that can be set almost any place in the room, while others prefer a light that is attached to the music rack. A little experimenting with the various kinds will soon show you which lamp is best suited to your particular needs.

In placing your piano, try as far as possible to keep it away from direct contact with heat radiators and open windows. The dampness and dust that sweep in through many windows, and the varying heat of the radiators, will eventually prove harmful to the instrument. The tone of your piano will be affected by extremes of temperature which cause expansion and contraction, and as a result, you will be put to the necessity of very frequent retuning. Furthermore, not only will the tone be impaired, but the fine finish of the case may be permanently injured by grit or heat, and the dampness may rust strings so badly that you will be obliged to have them replaced.

Of great importance in placing the piano is its relation to other furnishings in the room. Very few families have or desire a separate music room. Therefore, the piano in the average American home must live on friendly terms with its furniture neighbors. This need not mean that it must lose its identity or become a victim of frustration. Not at all. It merely means the observing of a few rules laid down for all good decorating.

Just as every well-arranged living room has a conversational group of furniture, a writing corner, and some specially comfortable arrangement for reading, so, too, is it possible to build a small music unit about the piano. With a well-placed piano, some provision close at hand for storing sheet music and music books, and, perhaps, a place for the radio, you will find you have given dignity and importance to any musical activity in your home. In fact, when this is done successfully, the arrangement takes on the air of a miniature music room within another room.

Inasmuch as the piano is usually the heaviest piece in the room, it is well to balance its mass with some other heavy object or grouping of smaller pieces. Otherwise you will produce the sea-sick sensation that the room has listed to a perilous angle. A charming effect can be created by placing a comfortable seating arrangement across the room from the piano so that listeners may watch as well as hear the performers. This is especially nice for informal musicales, and it is more than nice in dealing with those persons who still feel that the real purpose of music is to promote conversation.



F. M. Demarest

Above, music group in the living room of the Editor's home. The graceful spinet piano is perfectly at home with the Currier and Ives' print on the far wall and the Colonial lamps—but, unlike its overpowering predecessor, does not claim a lion's share of the room

The lid of the piano is seldom raised in a private home because volume of tone is not required. Some ornamentation of the top, therefore, is not only admissible but very tion for the piano. The important consideration is to keep from overloading the top, and for mercy's sake, do not swathe it in violently embroidered shawls trailing fringe on the floor. Avoid, too, any object that might jangle with the vibration of the piano tone. You can guard against this by placing small mats of velvet or felt beneath every potential rattle or vibration.

On the walls near the piano, framed landscapes, portraits, mirrors, or handsome tapestries are appropriate decoration. A folding screen is a particularly graceful and softening adjunct—as witness in the living room illustration on page 26 how an awkward corner is filled in with a lovely screen decorated with Bakst drawings made for the original Russian

[*Please turn to page 61*]

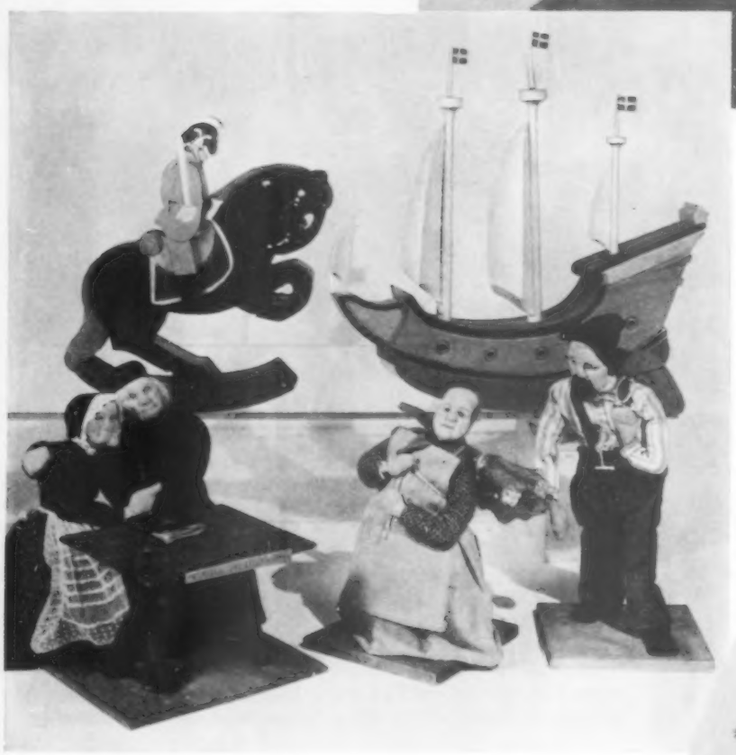
Symbols of European children's Christmas

These Christmas symbols were part of an exhibit called "Children of Europe," recently held in New York by B. Altman & Co. More than two thousand pieces were gathered together from many European countries, toys, games, books, clothing, miniature houses and farms, and dozens of other things—a veritable panorama of child life in foreign countries

Italy, as a nation devoted to brilliant color and intricate design, creates characteristic Christmas toys like this set of ten pins —entertaining enough even out of action!

Robert E. Coates

In Sweden, at Christmas time, every household sets up a symbolic little ornament like the one with the rows of candles in front to light it. Adults and children alike enjoy this symbol of the Christmas season, but chiefly for the children is the toy farm, with its little animals and its doll master and mistress



Nowhere is the Christmas tradition stronger than in Austria. And below is a beautiful little Austrian crèche, the clay figures garbed in colorful painted costumes, the stable where the Christ Child is sheltered roofed over with rough grass and straw, casual trees placed about, and farm animals resting quietly near by

Christmas is a season of quiet religious observation in Denmark. It is celebrated not with gaiety but with thoughtful reverie as one can see in the little old couple sitting before their Bible in their quaint native dress. Beside them is another couple, hardworking folk in rough clothing, carrying their store of faggots and vegetables from the fields to their little home. In the background are two dramatic toys for the Danish children—a brave cavalryman and his horse and a gallant sailing ship—both carved out of wood

The quiet end of Christmas day

GERTRUDE ORAM

Home of Mr. and Mrs. D. Pickering, Rutherford, N. J., Photo by Colbourn

THE most beautiful day of all the year should end beautifully. Especially for the children it is tragic to have what began in a spirit of high anticipation, end in weariness and disappointment. Christmas is the day of days for building family traditions, and some group occupation planned for the quiet end of Christmas day may easily grow into one of the most cherished of family customs. If there are young children in the family this ceremony should take place in the late afternoon, carrying the children to bedtime in a relaxed, happy mood. As they grow older it may be put over to evening, but it should always be a quieting pleasure, never a tense or exciting one.

Here are a few suggestions for family entertainments that have been used successfully to bring the happiest holiday to a glowing, appropriate close.

Candlelight: The old custom of lighting the Christmas tree with candles has wisely been abolished for general use because of the fire hazard involved. But one family, to whom the candle light was a tradition of great importance, use electric bulbs for all the time the tree is lit except on Christmas night. Then, with a small fire extinguisher at hand and a pail of water and a heavy blanket, the tree is lighted with dozens and dozens of little candles all set in their old-fashioned holders. The lighting is done after everyone has gathered in a comfortable semi-circle, the children often on cushions on the floor. The littlest girl holds her newest doll. The baby is snuggled into a wide chair beside his mother. There is a quietness that falls on them all as one by one the lights are added. With no other light than the soft candle flames they sit watching, talking quietly, making plans.

Someone says, "I choose the white candle on the very top branch."

"I'll take the green one just underneath it."

"Mine is the red one there, way out to the right."

Christmas candles have a way of burning unevenly, melting down now quickly, now slowly. The family and all the guests choose the one that each thinks will burn the longest. Even baby has a candle. It is a family saying that the one whose candle burns the longest will have good luck all the year.

With the tree watched so closely all danger is eliminated, and the full pleasure of its beauty enjoyed. There is laughter as the straight, tall green one chosen by the usually canny uncle flares up and then melts rapidly, drop by drop over the metal holder. Some one hums softly, and others join him. There is quietness and beauty, too, as Christmas slips into the past on the flickering flame of the very last candle.

Stories: President Roosevelt reads the Christmas Carol to his family on Christmas day. Many families have made it a happy custom to end the Christmas festivities with a story told by the group's best teller of tales. Sometimes it is the first Christmas story itself, told year after year with growing meaning and beauty. Often it is a new story, chosen as a surprise and looked forward to as the final treat of the day. It must, of course, be chosen with care and told well to earn its place in the family tradition.

Little Christmas tree: When all the regular gifts have been taken from their wrappings and exclaimed over, they begin to sink into the more usual category of possessions. By the end of the day everyone is ready for more. A little Christmas tree laden with miniature gifts is brought out as the final gesture each year in one family. The tiny tree is trimmed differently each year, and each gift, which according to the rules must never cost more than ten cents, and often less, is tagged with a humorous verse to be read aloud as the gift is delivered. Every one's dearest wish is granted, at least in intent, in these little gifts, which call for the exercise of ingenuity and imagination. They carry the spirit of gaiety through to the very end of the holiday.

Puppet show: Have you a toy theater? There is no need for professional skill or an elaborate equipment to make the marionette show a perfect family entertainment. If the theater is a much used family favorite, all the old often used pieces may be done again, or a special new performance may be planned for the end of Christmas day. Adults as well as children get great amusement from even the simplest antics of these little figures but, if there are children to be considered, be sure to allow one of the toy actors to sit on the edge of the stage and talk directly to his audience. This act always brings down the house. A skillful amateur in one family does this extemporaneously with delightful success, but the material may be written out ahead. If well done it leaves each member of the audience in a delightful, chuckling humor, and the admonition, "For the last time, now, Merry Christmas, and good night. Go to bed and sleep tight," seems to come with better effect from one of these friendly and amusing little creatures.

Christmas sing: To many fam-

[*Please turn to page 46*]

Christmas is a good time for visiting

Some months ago, you will remember, we visited some Mid-Western readers' homes. The Editor made the unfortunate error of calling them "Western" readers' homes, and was forthwith chided by all true Westerners. This time, however, we *are* West, and we felt that Christmas time is a fine time to peek into some California readers' homes, exchanging a little of our snow for some of their golden sunshine

We all think of California homes as stucco bungalows, very Spanish in architecture and decoration. Here, however, we find Colonial interiors even when the exteriors conform to our idea of California tradition. All proving that only by travel and visiting can we ever really know and understand how our neighbors live—even how our own fellow Americans live!

The home of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Stevens, in Berkeley, California. At the west and back of the house lies the three-terrace garden, which makes a shelter of vivid bloom and fragrant shrubs around the outdoor living room. The brick walks are bordered with small pieces of Oriental pottery in which are planted lovely exotics

The Stevens's living room expresses the spirit of its owners. It is reminiscent of English country homes, informal in a distinctly dignified and beautiful manner

This unusual and delightful provincial cottage is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Mayhew in Berkeley, Cal. The whitewashed clapboards, hewn oak trim, the thick walls and shuttered windows of the house make an harmonious and delightful whole. Brick stepping stones form a path to its fan-shaped entrance steps

The living room walls are of natural knotted pine. Note the uneven and interesting treatment of the walls. The quaint fireplace is covered with a beautiful dull copper hood, and the jars which hold the pussywillows are Mexican terra cotta. Pine poles hold the copper and yellow toned window draperies. The end of the room is almost wholly a large window, where beautiful San Francisco Bay, Mt. Tamalpais, and the Golden Gate spread out before one's eyes in truly unbelievable beauty

Home of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Rees, also in Berkeley. The Rees garden is one of the most beautiful in Berkeley and is filled with rare flowers and shrubs, carefully studied as to blending of color and lovely in its smallest detail

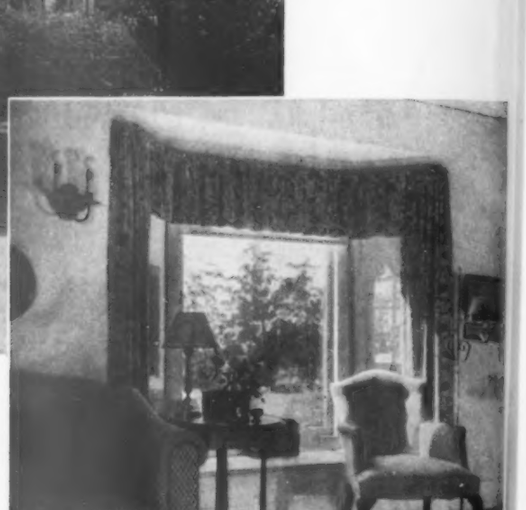
One finds this lovely and inviting tea house at the end of the Rees garden. Its moss patterned flag floor is edged with exotic flowers and vines. An aquarium, comfortable garden furniture, rare succulents in colored pots and wall jars, make an interesting background for the tea table. We might even add that it is one of the most alluring invitations to live in sunny California that we have ever seen!

Photographs by
Ralph Young

At the right, the Oakland home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Herriott. The woods of the beautiful Oakland hills enclose it protectingly, the hills that Bret Harte and John Muir loved. Below, the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Hoadley, also in Oakland. The steep slope of the front garden gives opportunity for a rock garden, with wild strawberries forming the ground cover and an irregular border of flowers and succulents making a delightful entrance approach

Above, the walled garden side of the home of Mrs. Edith Hansen which is not far from the sea in San Francisco. The walled garden is planted with lush semi-tropical shrubs and flowers and the porch above it is an open invitation to the refreshing breezes of the Pacific

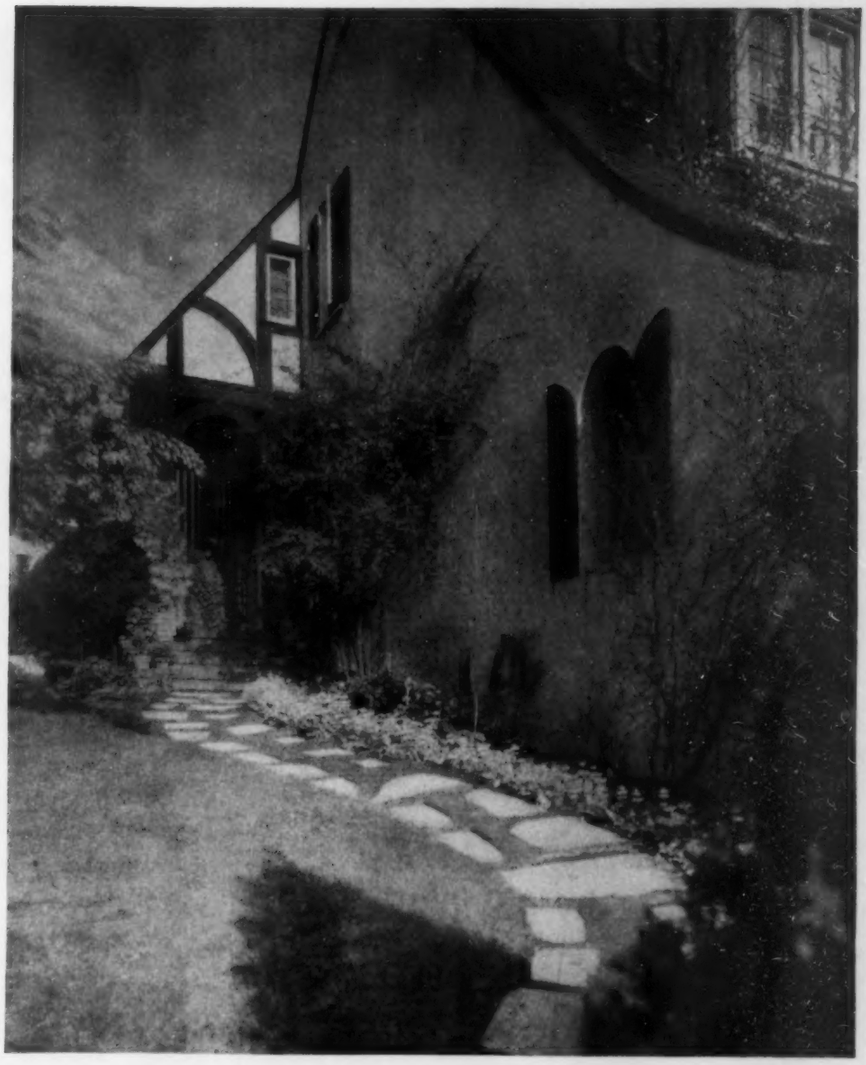
At left, the English house of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Stoddard tops one of the high hills of Berkeley. Behind its neatly clipped hedge lies a distinctly interesting small formal garden



A story book house

The home of Mr. and Mrs. T. Homer Yeager, in Berkeley, should stand in an enchanted wood. And the simple charm of this little home goes straight inside. With our back to the window nook of the photograph at the right, we face a fine old spinet piano, exquisite family portraits in old oval frames, and fine Colonial furniture, some of which are shown here

At the right, the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Keenan on a Berkeley hillside. The primula-bordered entrance walk welcomes one to the house and a garden sweet with scented shrubs and bright little flowers, quaintly planted like the little Dutch garden of song. Throughout, the Keenan home—house and garden—seem one. Below is the Colonial entrance hall



Dignity and a feeling of breadth and spaciousness is achieved in the planting before the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Cords in Oakland. The clipped hedge serves to emphasize the sweep of fine lawn, while trees and shrubs give an air of seclusion to the house

Why not potted plants for gifts?

Herman G. Cuthbert

Marian Cuthbert Walker

For a small sum of money gifts of real interest can be brought into the home. They seem to say there "A woman who loves beauty planted me, and what is more, she knew how to treat me, too!" Above, left, miniature leafed Ivy (Hedera helix gracilis) in a wicker-covered ginger jar. Center, a handsome donkey accommodatingly carries a Crassula in each of his panniers. At right, Helxine (Baby's Tears) beginning a winter's cascading over a burnt orange container. Below, succulents make fine dining-room table decorations and when placed in a lovely silver container take on distinction

YES, your enthusiastic man-gardener likes big flowers—enormous Dahlias, huge Chrysanthemums, giant "Glads!" a well-known horticulturist informed his audience of garden club women. "Most men are crop mad." He smiled then and spread out his hands in an expressive gesture. The women stirred, pleased at the unspoken compliment. For isn't it true that the majority of women do prefer flowers in their less outraged forms, and have a weakness for all diminutive plant material which offers beauty of line or vigor of growth?

The shops and greenhouses are full of these smaller specimens which can usually be bought for just a few cents, and are so adaptable to house culture. As soon as a home-loving woman sees them her quick imagination is stirred. This one will look attractive under the white light from the living room lamp, and this will catch the sunlight on that window sill, half way up the stairs. She makes a tour of investigation in the shops for interesting containers. There is a wealth of them. Highly glazed or duller finished pottery in odd shapes, metals with rich tones, bowls of many forms, the conventional-shaped glazed pots of many colors and sizes—all are considered for her diminutive house plant. She remembers the "antique" pottery and bronzes at home. They, too, will be useful. As far as her imagination goes, she is planning one hundred per

cent. But probably in two or three months she'll be saying, "My plants didn't do so well, somehow. I guess the old clay pots are the only practical ones, after all."

What was at fault, however, was not the new type of pot, nor the fact that the plant material was diminutive, but that the question of a drainage hole had not been considered. "What!" you exclaim, "are all containers without a drainage opening just worthless?"

In a general way there is much to be said in favor of these newer, hard-finished containers. Experiments have proved, it seems, that the old-fashioned clay pot isn't so virtuous as we used to believe, because it really doesn't allow all that credited aeration through its sides. Most of this aeration actually takes place through the surface soil. That's a good argument for keeping it stirred up! Besides that, the clay pot is really greedy in absorbing moisture so that it dries out the roots nearest its sides and necessitates overwatering of the entire root system, to keep these contacted roots just normal. On the other hand, glazed pots are unabsorbent and, therefore, guarantee an even distribution of moisture and require less frequent watering. What's a housekeeper with an imagination going to do, then, when she likes the looks of so many of them but finds that so few have any drainage holes? Go back to the clay pots? They're hideously ugly. They're unbearable.

Here are some plants suggested which, by the simple trick of knowing exactly what they want, fit themselves to a healthy life. Drainage hole or not—it's all the same to them! They're all set on decoration! And oddly enough some of these species like to be very, very dry, and some on the other hand love damp feet, or if you gave them a chance they'd take to the water itself. None of that mealy-mouthed business for them of "medium moist," or an equally disturbing "fairly dry." "To the drainage hole for you!" would be their saucy retort to these other vascillating creatures.

In fact these very-drys and very-wets are in every way accommodating. They're in the shops at twenty-five cents, have the most fascinating variety in leaf and structure, and repay only reasonable care with an enthusiasm for increasing, either by offset or by leaf-cutting.

Most diminutive of all of those moisture-loving plants is Helxine soleirolli. Like a popular school child it has plenty of nicknames—Irish Moss, Baby's Tears, or Friendship Plant. It's an adorable mosslike creature from Corsica which, if given time enough, will

be cascading all over the sides of its container. It makes a pretty cover plant, too, in pots of large plants where its shallow roots can be conveniently kept moist, irrespective of the other plant's habits. Ivy (Hedera), also loves a moist soil, and offers an interesting range of varieties. Besides the large English Ivy which we all know, there is a miniature type, gracilis, with delicately shaped leaves, only a fraction as large, and just as hardy. Creamy-white are the markings of another large-leaved variegated variety against the dark green foliage. When once established new cuttings may be made from all of

At left, home-grown Grapefruit seedlings make a miniature picture with this gay tropical fish container. Below, a miniature-leafed Begonia—easy to keep indoors

these and rooted either in water or in sharp sand if kept moist.

Wandering Jew (Tradescantia), since it will flourish in water alone, is especially adapted to the moist soil of a container without drainage. Not too rich a soil, and not too much sunlight will agree best with it. It also will be the parent of many future generations if its strength is recuperated outside next summer as stock for winter cuttings.

Every one does not know that other lovely trailer—Philodendron—which adores a moist soil and will in fact grow, but not thrive luxuriantly, in water alone. Its great heart-shaped, richly shining leaves unfold rapidly from coral-colored sheaths. Cuttings can be made from this plant by allowing one inch of stem below and above a leaf joint, and rooting in sharp sand.

Small specimens of the so-called Chinese Evergreen or more properly Aglaonema modestum may now be bought for twenty-five cents, and will thrive in a moist soil. It is a true water-loving plant, too, and will flourish in water as well. Like so many of the broad and vigorous leaved specimens that come from tropical climates it carries that assurance of lush growth which makes it satisfactory indoors.

Somewhat similar to it, is another moisture-loving plant which we should all be on the lookout for this winter. It will soon be popular for its vigorous habits. Because of its arrow-shaped leaves it is often called popularly Arrow-head Philodendron, but, its true name is Nephthyts liberica, and not a bad one, either, if you can finally get it to roll off your tongue!

Ficus repens, that Lilliputian member of the Rubber-plant family, will thrive in wet soil, and makes a dainty trailer to hide the edge of the pan on which potted specimens are sitting, or as a creeper up a window. Cyperus, the umbrella plant, as it will grow in water alone, enjoys being altogether moist. It likes plenty of sun, though, and a lean diet in the soil. Cuttings can be made by giving some of the leaf heads a close bob and placing them in sharp sand. A variegated variety is also interesting, but it will not come true from leaf cutting, and root division must be used instead. Then, to bring up this list of moisture-loving specimens there are also the little Grapefruit plants, which do not cost even the proverbial quarter, but may be home grown. Their usefulness lies in their beauty for even as tiny plants they are pretty in a group as dining-room table decoration or as trees in miniature indoor gardens. Their foliage is richly shining, and fragrant when rubbed. However, they cannot endure dryness, and will drift off their leaves at once. About four weeks is needed for germination even when the seeds have been nicked or soaked. A three-year-old specimen is one of the handsomest house plants possible.

Well, as it's easy to keep all these moisture-loving plants very wet without a drainage hole in their containers, it is just as possible to have as healthy specimens

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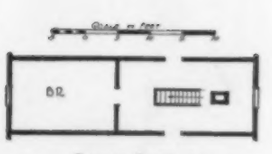
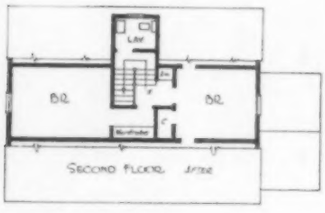
Just a bit afraid of his shadow this great green frog is ready to plunge in the water, where he and his cargo are equally at home. You'll find many other amusing and unusual containers in your florist or gift shops for Christmas gifts

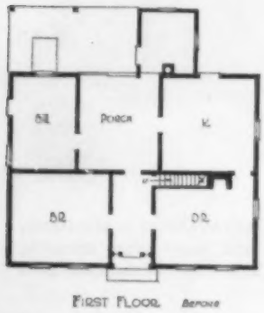
A remodeled Cape Cod cottage in Batavia, Ohio

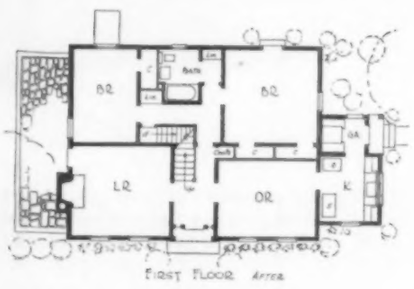
The home of William F. Jenike

Richard R. Grant, Architect









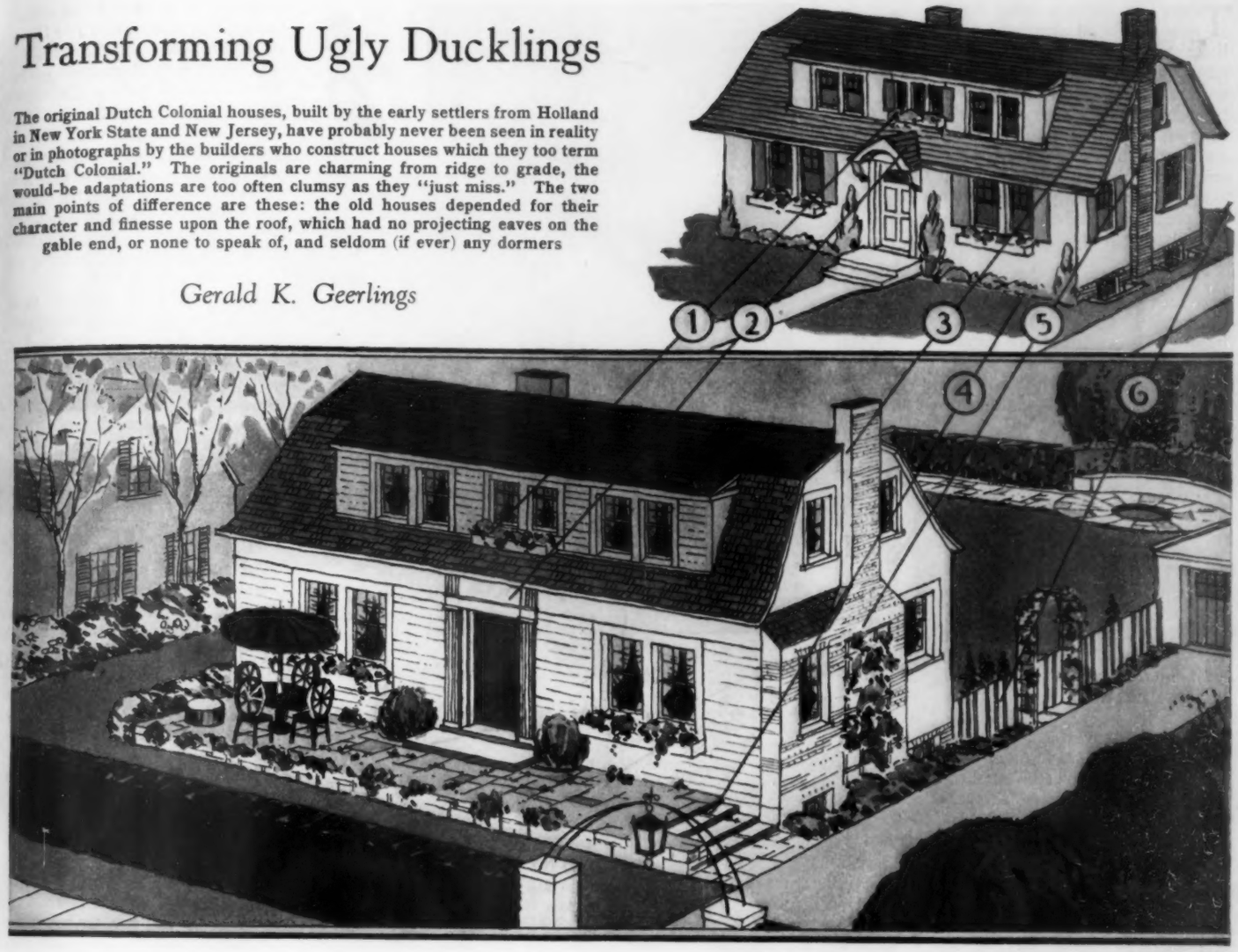
THIS little house could not be rented or sold before remodeling and was considered a shack by the villagers but now, in spite of its eighty-five years, it is the show place of the town.

In this interesting old house the gutters were hand hewn from a log and are still in good condition. All framing is of hand-hewn oak and poplar timbers, and floors are of oak plank. The foundation is of stone and is over two feet thick. In addition to the necessary replastering, replacing of rotted posts and siding, and painting and repapering, a basement was excavated, new heating and electric systems installed, as well as modernized plumbing including two baths and a new kitchen—all for $4,000.

Transforming Ugly Ducklings

The original Dutch Colonial houses, built by the early settlers from Holland in New York State and New Jersey, have probably never been seen in reality or in photographs by the builders who construct houses which they too term "Dutch Colonial." The originals are charming from ridge to grade, the would-be adaptations are too often clumsy as they "just miss." The two main points of difference are these: the old houses depended for their character and finesse upon the roof, which had no projecting eaves on the gable end, or none to speak of, and seldom (if ever) any dormers

Gerald K. Geerlings



THE small drawing at the top of the page is representative of the usual modern "Dutch Colonial" house, with its enormous gable-end eaves, and its dormer which almost blots out the lower slope of the roof. If either of these features were an improvement on the originals nothing would remain to be said. But the effect of the eaves is to make the house look as though it were wearing its father's sombrero, and the dormer as though it had taken an elevator ride directly through the roof—and forgotten how to get down again. These problems are dealt with in details, Numbers 1 and 3. The dormer is not eliminated, but merely made as inconspicuous and consistent with the balance of the house as is possible. The only structural changes in the alterations is that shown in Number 5, where the base of the chimney is widened. The terrace in front requires stone flagstones, but otherwise an intelligent carpenter can execute all the changes without either much time or much expense being necessary.

Detail Number 1: Number 1 detail deals with the middle window of the dormer. On the existing house it is divided into three parts, each being a casement (swung on its side), with the glass divided into small panes. The three windows are flanked by two shutters, but there does not seem to be much sense in providing only two out of three windows with shutters, so these are removed, and the entire window unit is taken out and made into a double-hung sash like the others throughout the house. Even though the window serves a bathroom and does not have to be as deep, the unit glass size can be approximately the same as the other windows. The flower box will disguise the difference in height, and is therefore retained. In the existing house the dormer is painted white, the same as the balance of the house. If instead it be painted a pale gray (provided the roof be a weathered in color), the dormer will be less conspicuous. Whatever the color of the roof, the dormer will profit greatly by being painted a paler shade of this same hue.

Detail Number 2: The existing house has two clumsy brackets flanking the doorway, used to support a hood which breaks into the roof. The result is not to make the en-

[*Please turn to page 54*]

Louise Price Bell

Try a little tenderness

Dorothy Robinson

THERE's a popular song right now that is all about the dear little woman and wearing the same shab-by dress. And the moral of the piece is "try a little ten-der-ness." It's a very affecting song—if you happen to feel that way at the time. But it started me thinking. Thinking about children—my children and your children and the art or job or joy of bringing them up. For it's all of these and more.

It seems to me that we've tried, and been told to try, just about every method in the list. We've been told to be firm, to be hands-off, to be impersonal, to be dotingly lax. Why not instead "try a little ten-der-ness"—and common sense?

We use both those qualities in the care of our material possessions. We wash our delicate fabrics in mild soap suds—and do not wring them. We polish our silver with something that does not scratch. We ease the curtain rod gently through the casing—so it won't tear. We give bone meal to the tulips and cotton seed meal to the lawn and we don't dig around the rhododendrons to prove to ourselves that the roots lie close to the surface. We know they do and leave them in undisturbed tranquility. We use patience and persistence and politeness in our relations with "things." And the same patience and persistence and politeness would get equally satisfactory results with our children.

There would be no "problem children" if there were no "problem parents." Ask anyone in charge of a child study clinic and you will be told that their difficulty is in adjusting and changing home conditions and parental attitudes. When these are right the child adjusts himself—except, of course, in the very small percentage of cases which have real mental or physical defects.

But most children are normal. Their desires are normal. They get hungry and tired—even as you and I. They want to excel and to be praised for it—which isn't anything so unusual. They want the center of the stage and the full glare of the spot light—so do most of us, really, only experience and the years have taught us there isn't room in the center for everyone and the spot light makes only a small circle.

Children have mental curiosity and a desire for new experiences to a much larger degree than most adults. Someone has defined genius as "prolonged childhood" and I believe it. What is creative genius but an intense curiosity and enthusiasm and determination along some line? Yet that trait in our children annoys us and we term it stubbornness and meddling and destructiveness. We try to train out of them with irritation and scolding and punishment those very qualities which, if developed, might lead them to unusual accomplishment.

Why not use a little tenderness and patience, and the brains with which we are endowed, to find out why Johnny takes the works out of the alarm clock and Susie sets fire to her doll's hair with the curling iron? If the curtain rod sticks we don't rant and rave and jam it through—just to show who's boss. We find out why it sticks and patiently, at least outwardly, take our time to overcome the sticking. We're courteous and considerate with our belongings. We have to be if we don't want to ruin them and do want to keep them. Yet spiritual tears and scratches with a child are so vastly more important and lasting. And these tears and scratches are so easy to produce with senseless and harsh methods.

But I don't mean to let Johnny and Susie do just whatever their little hearts desire. After all the personalities and needs of the other members of the family have their fair rights too and Susie and Johnny have to go out into a world where consideration and fair play are the lubricants of social relationships. They have to be trained in these things. But why can't we take our time to it?

The garden goes on season after season and year after year and we expect of it only gradual growth in vigor and beauty. We expect weeds and insect pests and good years and bad. We treat delphiniums one way and lupins another and we don't ask spring blooming bulbs to burst forth in the fall of the year.

Yet, "My goodness," says mother to five-year-old son, "can't you shake hands and say, 'good morning' to Mrs. Whoozit? Where are your manners?"

They're there, as a matter of fact, and small son would like to get them out. But he doesn't know how. He'd like to get them out because he likes approval and pleasant contacts. But the only way we can help him to do this is to give him something along that line to imitate. Wonder if mother and father and the rest of the grown-ups are always careful to say good morning to him, always careful to make their requests politely and pleasantly, always punctiliously alert to thank him when he does some small service?

Even in these uncertain monetary days I'd be willing to bet my bottom dollar that they don't—because I know we don't. And yet I know, just as surely, that when we watch our own manners we don't have to watch the children's. I was reading something the other day that proved this very point. Nora Waln, in writing of her experiences as a member of a high caste Chinese family in *The House of Exile*, speaks of the beautiful and really formal manners of the little children in the Children's Court of this Oriental home. They are always treated with the utmost courtesy and dignity and seem to feel instinctively that any other behavior would be out of key with their surroundings. Children are natural born imitators, we've all observed. What are we giving them to imitate?

The trouble with most of us is that it's so much easier to preach politeness than to practise it. But why blame the youngsters?

"See which one of you can close the door most quietly this noon," is twice as effective and three times as pleasant as, "For heaven's sake stop slamming that door." Only it takes more thought and more self control and those are two things which we so often think are almost impossible when we're tired and edgy. But habit is a regular weed when it comes to growing. Do a thing several times and it's easier to do it several more times—whether it be constructive or destructive.

"Children desire security" states one child psychologist. And that is, it seems to me, another fundamental desire of all humanity. Security means not only enough food and warmth and shelter. It means enough love. Enough sense of the unchangeable place we hold in the hearts and lives of the people who are close to us. Of course children desire that. But they don't have it, no matter how they are surrounded with physical luxuries, if there is constantly an atmosphere of criticism and blame and censure.

Kenneth Grahame in his exquisite study of childhood—*The Golden Age*—tells of the meeting of a little boy with a roadside artist. They had a perfect time together with sympathy and understanding on both sides. Then it ends and the little boy starts home—"back to the house where I never did anything right." To me that is tragically pathetic. More pathetic than if that child had come from a home of neglect. The adults were so anxious that he be perfect, according to their standards, so anxious that he grow up ahead of time that they made him feel a sense of hopeless failure.

We, all of us, so often regard our children as something that must be a credit to ourselves, to our families. They must be a credit to themselves first of all and, if the right qualities are there, the rest will naturally follow. We stress superficial traits and habits such as neatness and order and social manners because the lack of them inconveniences and embarrasses us. Yet these

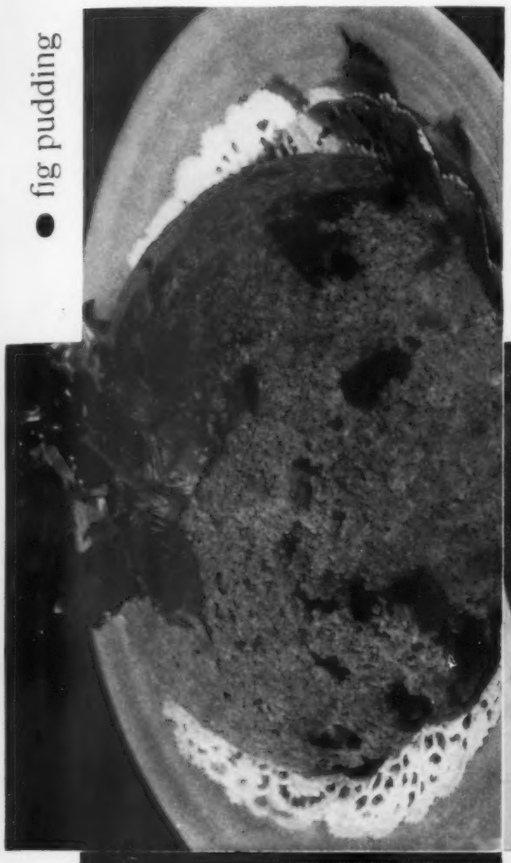
[*Please turn to page 56*]

Christmas puddings

Christmas puddings! What a stir they make—and what a stir they take! The proof, they say, is in the eating so, whether you choose English or American, we hope the proof—and the sauce—will be adequate.—GENEVIEVE JEWELL

Recipe printed on back of each photograph

● fig pudding



Recipe printed on back of each photograph

● chocolate plum pudding

Recipe printed on back of each photograph

● plum pudding

● Pennsylvania plum pudding

● uncooked plum pudding

● carrot pudding

Photographs by F. M. Demarest

Christmas puddings

In England, each and every member of the family, from youngest to oldest, stirs the plum pudding three times around and makes a wish as he stirs. Why not revive this jolly old custom this Christmas?—GENEVIEVE JEWELL

Photograph printed on back of each recipe

Photograph printed on back of each recipe

Photograph printed on back of each recipe

● carrot pudding

1 cupful brown sugar
1 cupful white sugar
⅓ cupful butter or margarine
1 cupful ground raw carrot
1½ cupfuls flour
1 teaspoonful soda
1 cupful ground raw potato
1 teaspoonful cloves
1 teaspoonful cinnamon
1 teaspoonful nutmeg
1 cupful raisins
1 cupful chopped nuts
1 teaspoonful salt

CREAM butter and sugar. Add carrot and potato. Sift flour, soda, and salt together and combine mixture. Then add spices, raisins, and nuts. Mix well.

Fill cans (coffee cans will do) lined with heavy greased paper, two thirds full. Cover. Set in pans of hot water and cook in moderate oven three hours.

Tested by THE AMERICAN HOME

plum pudding ●

1 package lemon gelatine
2 cupfuls boiling water
¾ cupful grapenuts
¾ cupful walnut meats
1 cupful cooked prunes shredded
½ cupful citron
½ teaspoonful cinnamon
¼ teaspoonful cloves
Pinch of salt

DISSOLVE gelatine in boiling water. Stir in other ingredients while hot. Harden. Serve with or without whipped cream.

Tested by THE AMERICAN HOME

● uncooked plum pudding

1 package gelatine (orange)
2 cupfuls boiling water
1½ cupfuls nutmeats
1 cupful chopped dates
¾ cupful sugar
1 cupful raisins
1 teaspoonful cinnamon
⅓ teaspoonful cloves

MIX gelatine and sugar. Add boiling water. Stir well, set aside to cool. Cook raisins in very little water until soft. When cool add them, the dates, nuts, cinnamon, and cloves to gelatine. Set in refrigerator. Serve with puffs of whipped cream or hard sauce.

Glorified hard sauce

2 cupfuls powdered sugar
4 tablespoonfuls butter
1 egg
1 cupful whipped cream
Sherry flavoring, or nutmeg
1 tablespoonful lemon juice

Cream butter, blend sugar with butter then add egg, slightly beaten, and when ready to serve add whipped cream, with sherry flavoring or nutmeg, and lemon juice.

Tested by THE AMERICAN HOME

● chocolate plum pudding

1 level tablespoonful gelatine
1 cupful milk
½ cupful cold water
¼ teaspoonful vanilla
½ cupful currants
1 square grated chocolate
2 egg whites
½ cupful sugar
½ cupful dates
½ cupful seeded raisins
¼ cupful nuts
Salt

SOAK gelatine in cold water. Put milk, chocolate, fruit in double boiler. When chocolate has melted and milk is hot add gelatine, sugar, and salt. Remove from fire. As mixture thickens add nuts and then fold in stiffly beaten egg whites, turn into wet mold, decorated with nut meats and raisins.

Serve with sweetened, flavored whipped cream or with currant jelly sauce.

Tested by THE AMERICAN HOME

● Pennsylvania plum pudding

1 cupful suet
1 cupful raisins
1 cupful molasses
½ cupful sugar
2½ cupfuls flour
1 teaspoonful cinnamon
1 teaspoonful allspice
½ teaspoonful nutmeg
1 teaspoonful soda
1 cupful sweet milk

MIX all ingredients together. Steam three hours. An orange sauce makes an excellent accompaniment for cooked plum puddings.

Orange sauce

1 cupful sugar
¼ teaspoonful salt
4 tablespoonfuls cornstarch
Juice of 3 lemons, strained
Juice of 3 oranges, strained
Grated rind of two lemons
2 cupfuls boiling water

Mix sugar, salt, cornstarch. Moisten. Add boiling water. Stir and cook until thick. Add fruit juices and rind. This may be made ahead of time and reheated in double boiler when needed.

Tested by THE AMERICAN HOME

● fig pudding

3 ounces suet
½ pound figs
2 cupfuls stale bread crumbs
½ cupful milk
2 well-beaten eggs
1 cupful sugar
⅓ teaspoonful salt

MIX dry ingredients. Add sugar and eggs. Steam two hours.

Hard sauce

⅛ cupful butter
Grated rind of 2 oranges
1 cupful brown sugar

Cream butter and sugar, add orange rind. The secret of creamy hard sauce lies in long beating. Chill before serving.

Tested by THE AMERICAN HOME

MANY families who could not accept the "canned soup" idea, now eat Heinz Soups regularly. It is because Heinz Soups actually *are* the homemade kind . . . In the Heinz soup kitchens you will find no huge vats. Merely individual open kettles, in which small batches are slowly and patiently simmered, stirred and seasoned . . . The recipes from which these 18 delectable soups are made are highly prized home recipes. The ingredients are of the grade served on your own table. Vegetables well-bred and flawless. Meats of the kind sold by the better butchers. In Heinz cream soups only pure wholesome cream is used . . . Heinz Home-Recipe Soups, when cooked, are first tasted by the Heinz Flavor Jury, then sealed, while hot, into stout tins. Thus when you serve them, they taste precisely as they did when passed by the Flavor Jury. For Heinz Soups are *finished* soups, ready for heating and serving. Nothing need be added . . . Your grocer will tell you that sales of Heinz Soups have been increasing at a speedy rate — especially to families in homes where, until recently, only homemade soups would do . . . Try two or three of your favorite soups from the list below.

Learn why your grocer's sales of Heinz Soups have grown so fast.

HEINZ
homemade style
SOUPS

Cream of Green Pea • Scotch Broth • Vegetable
Cream of Mushroom • Clam Chowder • Noodle
Gumbo Creole • Cream of Asparagus • Beef Broth

Cream of Spinach • Bean Soup • Mock Turtle
Cream of Oyster • Cream of Celery • Consommé
Cream of Tomato • Pepper Pot • Onion Soup

for Christmas Presents

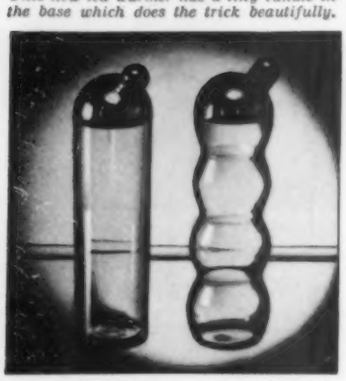
Fostoria Suggests

Three charming table accessories—ideal for bonbons, almonds, and lemon slices.

Tiny birds for almonds—leaves of glass for salt—in crystal or colors.

This new tea warmer has a tiny candle in the base which does the trick beautifully.

The graceful bubble candy jar in crystal or in Fostoria's gem-like colors.



Two outstanding examples of strikingly modern design: the cylindrical and "triple action" cocktail shakers.

Has any home enough decanters? No! So here are two of unusual beauty, ideal for fine wines or liqueurs.

THESE are just a few of Fostoria's almost endless creations in beautiful glassware. Be sure to see the new Fostoria stemware and dinnerware in both crystal and colors, including the most glamorous color development in glassware—Fostoria's Oriental Ruby. Write for our free booklet, "Correct Wine and Table Service". Fostoria Glass Company, Moundsville, W. Va.

Fostoria

THE GLASS OF FASHION

Gifts for the hostess

A great big wooden salad bowl filled with delicacies—artichokes, paté de fois gras, marrons, honey, Welsh rabbit, and antipasto, will be useful long after the food is gone. It comes from Gristede's

Dutch Oven from Federal Enameling & Stamping Co.

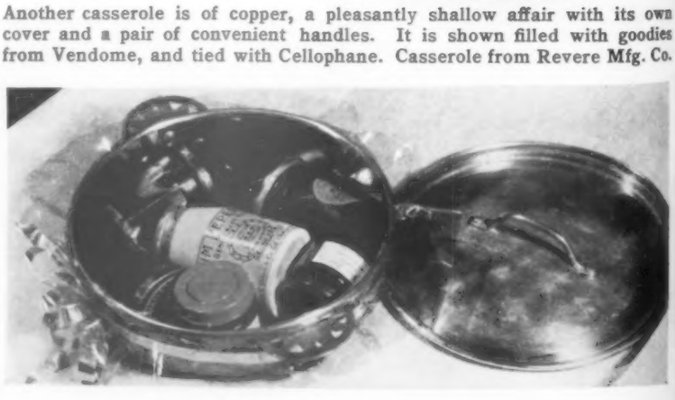
An enameled Dutch Oven will be a splendid gift, especially when filled with cans of Heinz's new soups

Photos by F. M. Demarest

Food luxuries packed in glass make exceptionally nice gifts. Here are some suggestions: stuffed oranges in grenadine, mint sauce, calf's foot jelly, peaches in crême de menthe, fresh peaches. From Gristede

A cake plate and cover decorated with tiny red cherries is another suggestion that is both decorative and useful. The G. S. N. Co.

Another casserole is of copper, a pleasantly shallow affair with its own cover and a pair of convenient handles. It is shown filled with goodies from Vendome, and tied with Cellophane. Casserole from Revere Mfg. Co.



"I'm a Widow...with 5 Children

...and I can't afford to take chances with cheap, doubtful baking powder.

(An interview with MRS. MERLE BROWN, *of Kansas City, Missouri)*

"MY husband left no insurance, so I have to be the breadwinner. But we manage somehow on our $100 a month. It isn't easy, though, with five growing youngsters to feed, clothe and educate.

"When we had more money, I always used Royal Baking Powder because it made my cakes so fine-textured and delicious.

"And now, I wouldn't risk using any other, because I just couldn't afford a baking failure. Good butter, eggs and milk cost too much to be trusted to cheap, doubtful baking powder."

VERY SENSIBLE, MRS. BROWN! Women who stop to figure the cost of the ingredients they put in a cake know it is always poor economy to take chances with inferior baking powder.

After all, you need only two or three teaspoons of baking powder to make a cake. And that much Royal costs only one cent.

Only 1¢ for Royal! And this trifling sum gives you sure results—*every time*.

You already know what a fine baking job Royal does . . . and what an exceptionally delicious flavor you get in cakes made with this famous baking powder.

In fact, no matter what you bake with Royal, you can be sure of above-the-ordinary results—finer flavor . . . more even texture . . . better keeping quality.

Next time you buy baking powder, remember how little it costs to use Royal. The price is now the lowest in seventeen years. Practice the true economy of using the best—reliable Royal!

Skimp as I must, I won't give up Royal"

● **"Our $10 a week food allowance certainly won't cover any waste of good butter, eggs, and milk. My baking *has* to be successful—and with Royal Baking Powder it *is*—*every time!***

● **"Goodness knows, it takes little enough baking powder to make a cake. I certainly can't see the sense of using any but the very best—and that's Royal!"**

● **"Nobody can talk me into changing from Royal Baking Powder. I've used it ever since I was married and I've never had a failure."**

WATCH FOR YOUR BAKER'S WEEKLY "SPECIALS"

When you bake at home, make sure of success and delicious flavor by using Royal Baking Powder for your cakes and hot breads. But don't forget that you can rely on your baker for delicious coffee cakes, Parker House rolls, crisp dinner rolls, cinnamon buns, and other goodies to lend variety to your table. Fine cakes—from plain cup cakes to delicious layer cake—are now available to the busy housewife.

With careful attention to the housewife's needs and wishes, trained skill and the best scientific equipment, the modern bakery offers a wider and ever-increasing service to the home.

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NRA CODE

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WHEN DOES A SHEET BREAK?

U. S. GOVERNMENT EXPERTS RIGHTLY CONSIDER THIS A TEST OF QUALITY

Next time you make a bed—when you pull the sheet *this* way, stretch it *that* way—or when you're causing the same kind of strain by tossing and turning in the bed at night . . . consider how important it is to buy sheets that don't break easily. U. S. Government textile experts call this quality "tensile strength," and measure it with a very interesting machine that tells just exactly how many pounds of pulling a sheet will stand before breaking.

We know you haven't such a machine in your home. We wish you did have. If *you* could *test* Lady Pepperell Sheets, we know you'd buy Lady Pepperell. We insist that Lady Pepperell Sheets surpass this and all other U. S. specifications—and constantly test them ourselves on just such machines in our laboratories, to make sure that they do.

Pepperell believes in the consumer standard of quality as the *only* real measure of value. We believe that you should have frank facts about the things you buy. For example, against all tradition, we now are labeling our sheets "True Size," measured after hemming. The reliance that people have in our name has made us the largest maker of sheets in America.

Write for your free copy of Lady Pepperell's Thrift Book —an invaluable consumer guide for textile buying. Pepperell Manufacturing Company, 160 State Street, Boston, Mass.

Lady
PEPPERELL
Sheets and Pillow Cases

PEPPERELL FABRICS

Give books to the children

THERE is a wealth of Christmas books for children this year, many of them entirely new, many new editions of old favorites. Here are some of the titles you will want to know about.

Struwwelpeter, with original illustrations (Limited Editions Club)
The Poppy Seed Cakes by Maud and Miska Petersham (The Viking Press)
Miki by Maud and Miska Petersham (The Viking Press)
Miki and Mary by Maud and Miska Petersham (The Viking Press)
Ola and Blakken by Ingri and Edgar d'Aulaire (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)
Hansi by Ludwig Bemelmans (The Viking Press)
Farm Boy by Phil Stong, illustrated by Kurt Wiese (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)
Millions of Cats by Wanda Gag (Coward McCann)
The A B C Bunny by Wanda Gag (Coward McCann)
Lost Merry-go-round by Dorothy Lathrop (Macmillan)
Midget and Bridget by Berta and Elmer Hader (Macmillan)
Little Fat Gretchen by Emma Brock (Alfred A. Knopf)
Head for Happy by Helen Sewell (Macmillan)
The Wee Men of Ballywooden by A. Mason; illustrated by Robert Lawson (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)
The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame, illustrated by Ernest H. Shepard (Scribner's)
The Lord's Prayer by Ingri and Edgar d'Aulaire (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)
Do You Know by J. Smalley (Wm. Morrow & Co.)
Royal Minikin by A. Gall (Oxford University Press)
Tono Antonio by R. Sawyer (The Viking Press)
Tim Tadpole by Margery Flack (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)
Fun with Michael by Dorothy and Marguerite Bryan (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)
A First Bible by Helen Sewell (Oxford University Press)
Jinny; Story of a Filly by Bert Clark Thayer (Farrar & Rinehart)
Ship without a Crew by H. Pease (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)
Bridges by H. Bormann (Macmillan)
Flowers of Chivalry by Marguerite Clément (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)
Yossele's Holiday by Sonia Mazer (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)
The Corduroy Trail by Rita C. McGoldrick (Doubleday, Doran & Co.)
A Little Boy Was Drawing by Roger Duvoisen (Scribner's)

The quiet end of Christmas day

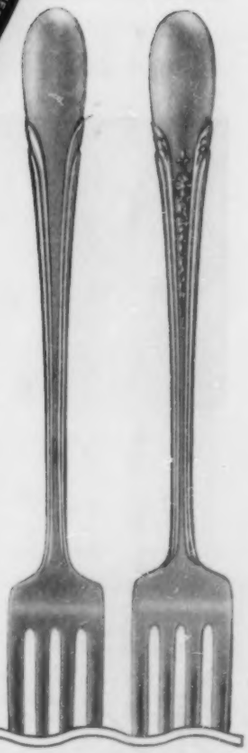
[*Continued from page 29*]

ilies who have learned to sing together the Christmas night sing is the best of all. The singing begins with Christmas carols. Then another family favorite is begun and they are off through a long repertoire. The children have each learned a new song to sing alone. Someone suggests a new song for the group to learn and they sing it over till they have it. Laughter and volume increase. The most rollicking songs are sung. Then a quieter one. Back to the carols, one after the other. And then Holy Night, saved by custom for the last.

In each of these customs, and in others like them, families have planted the seed of rich memories to be carried down the years. Christmas Day has fulfilled its promise in its quiet and beautiful ending—gone for another year.

Christmas Candlelight

AND THE GLEAM OF STERLING



May the soft light of your Christmas candles reflect wisdom and contentment as well as gaiety, this year! And it will — if it shines on new pieces added to your sterling pattern this very Christmas.

It will reflect wisdom — because the Government's action on silver indicates that prices will go higher — never lower. There couldn't be a wiser time to make the worthwhile investment of sterling.

It will reflect contentment — because, whether you start a new pattern or add to an old one, you will never tire of the beauty of TOWLE Sterling. And TOWLE patterns are open stock for years and years — ready to add to the perfection of your hospitality.

TOWLE

Makers of STERLING *only . . . with unbroken craft traditions*

SINCE 1690

NRA CODE

THE NEWEST IN STERLING
just announced this season

CANDLELIGHT (*left*) adds to the table a loveliness rich and elusive.

ARISTOCRAT (*right*). Chaste beauty of long flowing lines and softly rounding curves.

FREE — Pictures and prices of all TOWLE patterns with free chart of preferred engraving suggestions.

NEW BOOK FOR BRIDES — only ten cents — *"How to Plan Your Wedding."* Tells what to do three months in advance . . . two months . . . six weeks . . . three weeks . . . last week . . . last day. Four pages for the groom. Twenty-four interesting pages — a priceless record.

THE TOWLE SILVERSMITHS, Newburyport, Mass. *'Bride's Personal Service* — Dept. B-12

[ ] Please send me free information, especially on _____ pattern.

[ ] I enclose 10 cents for which please send me a copy of your new bride's book.

Write name and address in the margin

SYMPHONY (*left*). A modern expression of Early American ideals — simplicity, character, balance, poise.

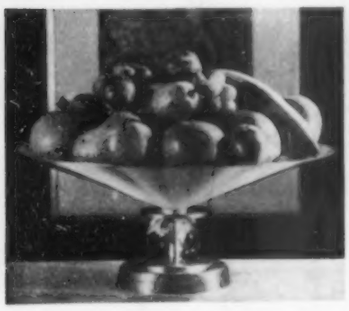
SYMPHONY CHASED (*right*) A beautiful enrichment of the lovely Symphony. New chased effect in its unusual ornament.

Beauteous Gifts

IN THE MODE

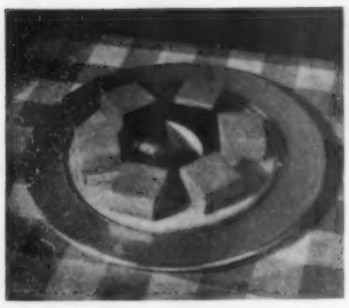
The Virginian Cigarette Box: $5.00
The Carolinian Cigarette Box: $6.50
The Hexagon Ash Tray: 4 for $5.00

The Laurel Tray: Twelve-inch, $6.50; 15-inch, $8.00; 18-inch, $9.50



The Stratford Bowl: $9.50

The Sussex Candy Jar: $4.50



The Yorktowne Cheese Tray: $6.50

The Snack Cracker Jar: $7.00

• If you would give beauty, seek no further. Here is the gracious softness of old silver, created in a new metal that knows no tarnishing, accepts no stains. There are sixty-odd other lovely pieces to choose from.

• Truly in the modern spirit, simple, authentic, Kensington pieces will be cherished in every discriminating home. Decorative and service pieces, and smoker's items, and buffet accessories, and whatever!

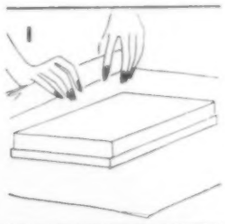
Now on display at the best department stores, jewelry stores and specialty shops.

Kensington INCORPORATED

OF NEW KENSINGTON

How to wrap your Christmas packages

1

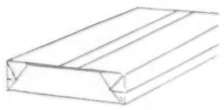


Place the box upside down on a sheet of Cellophane so that "face" side of gift will have a uniform surface. See that seams or "joints" come on bottom or sides of package—never the top.

2

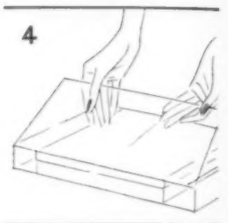
Before cutting the Cellophane from the roll, measure length of sheet required, allowing about one inch overlap in the middle.

3



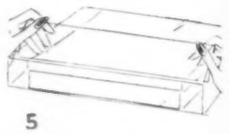
Fold in sides as in regular wrapping. Seal all "joints" with Scotch Cellulose Tape. Now apply ribbon. *Note:* Always wrap cellulose film loosely to allow for shrinkage. Do not pull it tightly across package. Do not let it hug corners tightly.

4



To wrap for tone effects: Beginning at extreme left of box, extend Cellophane around the box once. Before cutting, allow for an extra flap the width of the box. Now cut—be sure to cut straight.

5



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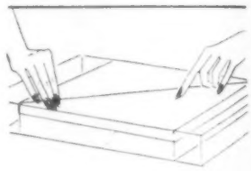
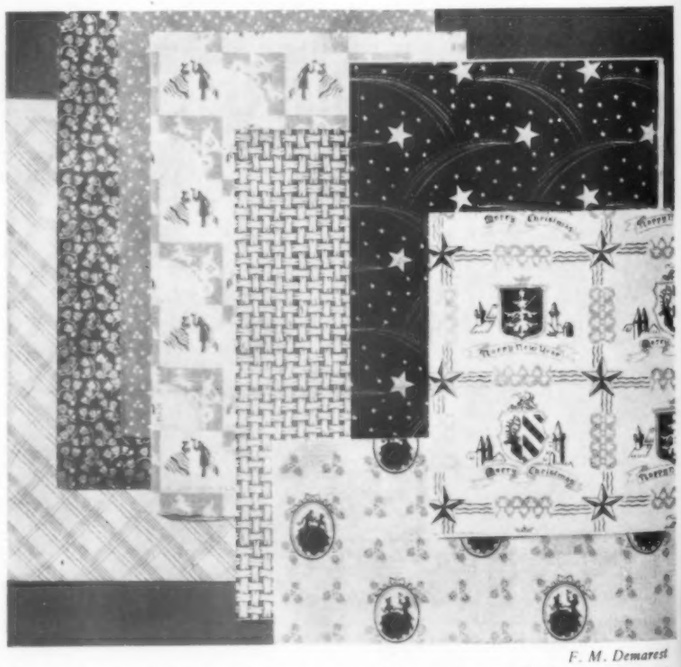


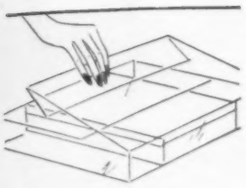
Fold the extra flap back under to meet left hand edge of box. Complete wrapping as in No. 3. For a diagonal tone, follow Nos. 4 and 5, except fold diagonally as shown in No. 6. Fold need not meet corners exactly.

For three tones, start the Cellophane ⅓ the distance from the right hand edge of the box. Encircle package with Cellophane. Continue sheet



F. M. Demarest

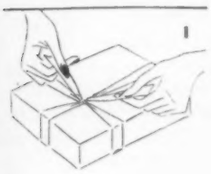
Here are some delightful Christmas wrappings, some full of Christmas spirit, others a little simpler, for those gifts given at other times than Christmas. Ben Mont Fancy Papers. Diagrams courtesy DuPont Cellophane Co.



7

beyond left hand edge of box and fold under overlapping part so that the now folded sheet ends with edge of the box. Seal in place. It is now time to apply ribbon.

Tying Packages



1

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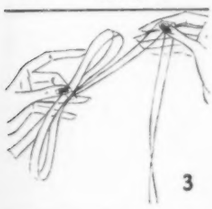
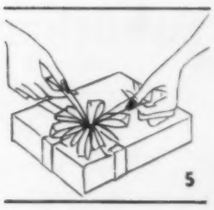


3

4

First tie the package. Tie ribbon with a single knot and cut ribbon from roll (No. 1). Start making bow separate from package. Form first loop (No. 2), holding it with thumb and second finger of left hand. Squeeze ribbon firmly at intersection (use same two fingers). Continue ribbon to make second loop (No. 3). Be sure to squeeze the intersection after each new loop. Now make another upper loop and another lower loop. This gives you four loops. Make as many more as you want (No. 4).

Still holding bow between your fingers, cut bow loose from the ribbon spool. Put bow on package and tie in place, using loose ends already on package (No. 5). Draw tight. Use double knot. Smooth out loops and ends. Any ends that are too long can be clipped on a diagonal for smartness.



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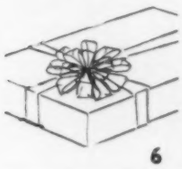

6

For a "one-over-one" bow, make another bow—smaller—and tie it in place on top of the first bow, using the single ends already on the package (No. 6). For a pom-pom bow make many-loop bow as explained and after you have tied it in place, clip ends with scissors until all the ends of the loops are missing.

7

Off-center bows: (No. 7) this is exactly the same as regular loop bows, except you keep making lower loops long and upper loops short. It is especially good for long, narrow packages.

Thumb-Sucking

★ STOPPED THE NEW WAY

Simply apply BITE-X to thumbs or finger tips. It instantly forms a tough transparent coating unpalatable to taste. Also stops nail biting. Renders unnecessary the use of metal cages. Approved by child specialists and Good Housekeeping Bureau. Send for free booklet.

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386 4th Avenue New York

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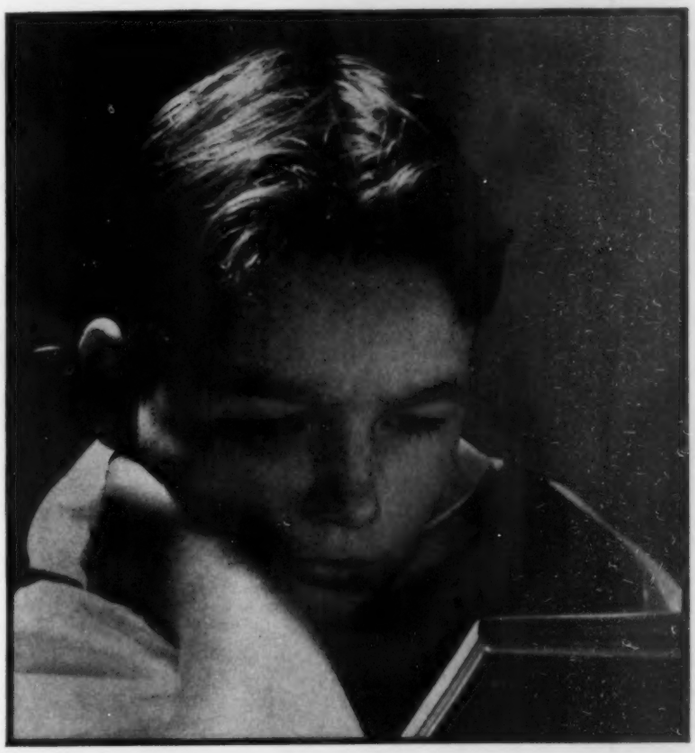
THIS BOY IS GOING TO BE *near-sighted*



THE picture above illustrates one of the very common causes of near-sightedness . . . one of the reasons why twenty grade school children in every hundred have defective vision. What is happening to the boy in this picture may be happening right in your own home, damaging the eyes of your own children.

The boy is reading with his eyes too close to his book . . . a habit he has probably formed through being forced to read or study in poor light.

Unless this habit is corrected, he may soon become near-sighted . . . because the eyes of a child are especially sensitive to strain.

Here is good news for parents!

An entirely new type of lamp has been designed by the Illuminating Engineering Society. It is called the I. E. S. Study and Reading Lamp. Revolutionary in principle, this lamp gives an abundance of soft, glareless light . . . several times as much as ordinary lamps.

Get one of these sight-saving lamps for your child. There are many attractive styles, and the prices are moderate. Write today for a free copy of "The New Story of Seeing." We will include full details about these new lamps. General Electric Co., Dept. 166, Nela Park, Cleveland, Ohio.

GIVE YOUR CHILD THIS SIGHT-SAVING LAMP

What better Christmas gift can you give him than this new lamp that will help save his eyes from harmful strain? Write for details today. General Electric does not manufacture the I. E. S. Study Lamp, but is glad to contribute this information in the interest of better sight.

GENERAL ELECTRIC

The journal of a suburban housewife—*Dorothy Blake*

DECEMBER 1—The next time I knit anything for Peggy I'll do it under sealed orders and by the light of the moon. I might as well be living in the same house with Simon Legree! The crack of the whip is in the air and the light of a fanatic is in Peg's eyes. Do I sit down to get an uplift, or whatever it is you get with a cigarette these days, I am stopped before I can get started—"Mother, why don't you knit? How far are you on my dress? If you'd made the other sleeve first—then it would be almost finished—wouldn't it?" I've often thought of that—sounds sensible until you start to think about it. Rather reminds me of G. Bernard Shaw in that respect. He does say nothing so cleverly!

DECEMBER 4—I have long ago outgrown the racial belief in personal devils but I am more convinced every day of the existence of guardian angels! Not just winged sentinels floating around in the ether but assigned to special and earthly duty. How else can one account for the fact that most small boys grow up—and in one piece? Artie strolled down to breakfast this morning with such ordered hair and clean face that I suspected the worst. He said, with an air of sweet restraint, "Good-morning, everybody," and even included Peggy in the radiance of his smile. She was so surprised she nearly swallowed a prune seed. Jim looked at me and raised his eyebrows and all I could think of at the moment was, "Where did I put that thermometer?" Breakfast went on as usual for a few minutes and then Artie looked at Jim and asked casually, "Lights working all right, Dad?" "Lights?" said Jim with about as much human intelligence as an addled hen. "What lights?" "Oh, just all the lights—the electric lights—the ones in the house," said Artie. "I thought maybe a fuse blew out or something." Seems he had the quaint idea that he would electrify the brass door knob to his room so that Peg and her gang of girls couldn't go in and mess things up—his own sense of order being somewhere between a second-hand shop and moving day. So he hitched up wires from his socket to his radio and then to the door. "It made a funny noise and kind of sparked a couple of times—so I quit. But the socket's kind of pulled out from the wall a little ways. Hope I didn't hurt anything." Jim opened and shut his mouth like a winded fish and then said, "Better get out the car, Dot. I'll take the eight six this morning." When speech fails—there's always an early train. That must account for the popularity of suburban life for men with young.

DECEMBER 11—Beth Roberts called me up this afternoon and asked if I'd started my jam yet. Never dawned on me until that minute that Christmas is coming in exactly two weeks! I think it must be sent by air mail right after the fourth of July or it couldn't get here so fast. Every year I plan to do things ahead and be ready and calm and then every year it sneaks up on me like this and I tear my hair trying to get everything done—but how I love it! I wouldn't miss making my Christmas jam if I was at death's door. Nicest neighborhood I ever saw about doing nice things for each other. Lottie Gilman sends around baskets of her homemade candy—she must make tons of it—Beth Roberts fixes up packages of pecan cookies that are the grandest things with tea I ever ate and Marcia stuffs prunes and apricots with candied orange peel and almonds. Right after the excitement of opening presents the children start around delivering their mother's addition to the neighbor's Christmas. I don't know who started it but I hope nobody ever stops it.

DECEMBER 13—Truck loads of trees have arrived until the main street in the village looks like a stage setting for the "Babes in the Wood." Artie and Peg want to help pick ours out now! Might just as well because no matter when we get it we are sure to see others later that are a better shape or more green or something. Yet, every year, when ours is trimmed we turn on the lights and breathe deep with joy, "The loveliest one we ever had!" When the children grow up and Jim and I are alone, in that little tucked away house we haven't found yet—and couldn't buy if we did—we still must have a tree. A real tree that has the pungent sweetness of a pine forest and branches that bear their gay burden with dignity and pride—as though it said to itself, "This has been worth living for—and dying for."

DECEMBER 17—Finished the jam today and found the prettiest seals for the top. They are green and silver and fit the covers perfectly. Shall I wrap them in silver paper with green cord or in green paper with silver cord? When they are unwrapped the jam looks beautiful anyway—it seems more

"*after eleven years*

my stove is just as bright and clean as the day I cooked my first meal on it"

"*Eleven years ago we purchased a new enameled range,*" writes a housewife* from Oklahoma. "*Being a newly-wed, I took mother's advice and used nothing but Bon Ami in keeping my stove clean. Now, after eleven years, the porcelain and nickel plate are just as bright and clean as the day I cooked my first meal on it!*" *(Name and address on request.)

This letter is typical of many we receive. Women just have such a genuine liking for Bon Ami they enjoy telling us about it. They appreciate Bon Ami because it protects surfaces—preserves the original lustre. They're grateful because Bon Ami doesn't redden their hands. They like Bon Ami because it's so white and fine . . . so odorless . . . so speedy. Use Bon Ami for your bathtubs—your sinks—for *everything*. It's the finest cleanser you can buy!

Bon Ami

"hasn't scratched yet!"

YES, WE ALL LOVE *lovely kitchens..*

(BUT WE LOVE TO **LEAVE THEM, TOO)**

This spacious sink is a Monel Metal "Straitline" cabinet model. Built-in dishwasher is manufactured by The Conover Company. The resplendent Stewart-Warner refrigerator is completely sheathed in Monel Metal. The American Stove Company makes the Magic Chef Range, with Monel Metal top, burner pan and broiler pan grid.

LET'S be frank. No matter how charming the kitchen, most women would prefer to be somewhere else. At the bridge table, making a small slam vulnerable, for instance. Or going places in the car.

That's why we make Monel Metal equipment both lovely and "leavable". To save you from dreary sessions with messy dishes, there's a Conover dishwasher tucked away in the base of that cabinet sink. And next to it a Monel Metal-topped Magic Chef range which almost manages to cook by itself!

Furthermore, Monel Metal has "surface charm". Meaning it has the most charming surface to clean ever invented. Rust, fruit juices, hot grease and other destroyers of ordinary sinks soon find that they have met their master—in Monel Metal.

It is, in fact, a perfect Methuselah of metals. Stronger than steel, chip-proof, crack-proof, practically indestructible, anything made of Monel Metal is sure to live to a ripe old age.

"One thing at a time" is the way the modern woman remodels her out-of-date kitchen. She starts with the sink...gets that paid for...then matches it with a range or work-table. Prices on the individual pieces are much less than you'd think from their splendid appearance. And Monel Metal dealers are perfect gentlemen about arranging convenient terms of payment. Considering which, don't you feel moved to do something about those great open spaces in the coupon below?

THE INTERNATIONAL NICKEL COMPANY, INC.
73 Wall Street New York, N. Y.

Monel Metal is a registered trade-mark applied to an alloy containing approximately two-thirds Nickel and one-third copper. Monel Metal is mined, smelted, refined, rolled and marketed solely by International Nickel.

Monel Metal

The International Nickel Company, Inc.
73 Wall Street, New York, N. Y.
Please send me further information on Monel Metal kitchen equipment.

A. H. 12-34

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

The Federal Housing Act makes it easy to finance improvements on your home. No down payments. *And three years to pay.* Why not plan now to retire your battle-scarred veteran of a kitchen sink? And replace it with one of the 57 beautiful models in Monel Metal. Certainly no other improvement can do so much towards increasing the beauty and efficiency of your kitchen. So write "a new Monel Metal sink" at the head of your remodelling list. Your bank or Monel Metal dealer will give you full information about obtaining the money.

golden than ever this year and the cherries through it look like little Japanese lanterns. Wing Foo stood around with his mouth fairly dripping and his eyes so full of pleading that I couldn't help giving him a bit on a piece of bread. As a disciplinarian I'm a good cook. That dog was nearly completely ruined when Miss Pratt gave him to us and we'll soon finish the job. The main point being that we'd rather spoil him than train him—much more fun!

DECEMBER 20—Beth and Marcia and I joined forces and took the children to the woods to gather material for Christmas wreaths. Had a couple of vacuum bottles full of hot cocoa and a box of sandwiches because we knew they'd be "simply starving" when we picked them up after school. The woods were wonderful with bright sunlight through the branches and a nice, crisp crackle under foot. Found oceans of stuff to use for the wreaths—silvery bayberry along the open side as it slopes toward the Sound and several kinds of evergreen and even one huge vine of bittersweet! Beth added firethorn berries from her garden and I contributed sprays of barberry. Marcia has red and silver ribbon enough for all of us saved from past years when their Christmas was lavish and expensive. She has such a gallant way of meeting life with her head up and her lips smiling. She always seems to me to be the proof of my belief that nothing can really beat you but yourself.

DECEMBER 21—Artie has his heart set on the most horrible box of candy as his gift for Miss Macdonald. It is magenta-pink with a woman on the cover who looks as though she were suffering from jaundice. Surrounding her is a wreath of poisonous green holly with gold berries—and the ribbon is positively brassy. But, "That's swell—and Mac is a good egg—for a teacher!" "Miss Macdonald. Artie," I correct feebly and try to turn his mind to a box of genteel stationery. "Gosh, who would want writing paper for a Christmas present? Nobody in the world would want to write letters!" How we all judge other's tastes by our own. After all, I suppose, he has as much right to his ideas as I have to mine. Just a touch of the old ego that I don't want Jean Macdonald to think I have picked the thing out.

DECEMBER 24—The wreath is on the door—on the same nail we've used for three Christmases before and, someway, I like to think of that. We spent so much time over tying the green on the wire frame and then in deciding just how and where the berries and the bow were to go. All worked on the game table down in Beth's basement and plumb forgot the time until Bill came home with Jim in tow and we cooked hamburgers over the laundry stove for supper. Then into the two cars to make our annual pilgrimage to look at the outdoor Christmas trees and decorations. The garden club started the idea and every year the effects are more beautiful. The Girl Scouts were singing Carols from house to house and, to complete the feeling of unreality, snow began to fall. Heaven must have something of the thrilling solemnity of Christmas eve.

Transforming ugly ducklings

[*Continued from page 39*]

trance inviting or charming, but merely to make the façade "fussy." In the revised drawing the roof is allowed to continue uninterrupted above the entrance; restrained pilasters flank the dark green door, and simplified "triglyphs" (grooved portion above the pilaster capitals) complete the alteration. A carpenter handy with a rabbet plane can make the triglyphs, while the capitals can be assembled from stock moldings. Many woodworking mills stock facias of a fluted or reeded nature which will serve for pilasters.

Detail Number 3: This detail shows how the revised eaves at the chimney will appear; the dotted lines indicate the position of the erstwhile eave projection. The chimney now extends from grade to cap without interruption of roof, while the eaves abutt the sides of the chimney. The discarded eaves will make splendid firewood, and save considerable in paint and upkeep—eventually enough to pay for the amputation.

Detail Number 4: Number 4 alteration deals with the approach to the house. In the original stat

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holiday

happiness

by telephone

THANKSGIVING, Christmas, New Year's. A happy succession of holidays. A season when so *many* folks will welcome the sound of your voice and the news of your doings. North, south, east, west—visit them by telephone. They will appreciate your thoughtfulness in remembering them. A call more than pays in pleasure for the little that it costs.

After 8:30 P. M., station-to-station rates for three-minute talks are as low as 35c for 75 miles; 50c for 150 miles; 75c for 275 miles.

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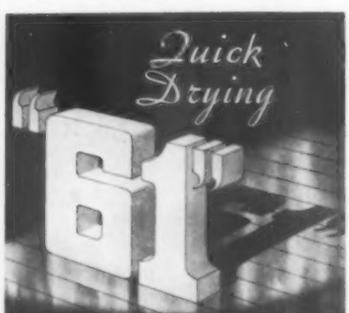

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Does NOT require polishing; is NOT slippery. Heelproof, marproof, waterproof. Lasts for years on floors, furniture, woodwork. At paint and hardware stores. Pratt & Lambert-Inc., Buffalo, N. Y

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ARVIN

FAN-FORCED ELECTRIC HEATER

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Keeping baby warm for bath or play is one important duty of an Arvin Fan-Forced Electric Heater which makes this such a splendid gift for your *own* baby, as well as your friends. Besides, you'll find the whole family clamoring for the Arvin on chilly mornings and evenings. Just plug it in any 110 A.C. wall outlet, and the circulating warm air quickly raises the temperature in any small room or chilly corner. It's safe for children—approved by Good Housekeeping Institute and Underwriters' Laboratories. See the two beautifully finished models at your hardware, electrical or department store, priced at $7.95 and $5.95. Or we will ship direct on receipt of price. Noblitt-Sparks Industries, Inc., Columbus, Indiana.

BY THE MAKERS OF ARVIN HOT WATER CAR HEATERS AND ARVIN CAR RADIOS

"Little Chef"

ASPARAGUS STEAMER

Performs miracles in the Kitchen

HEAVY POLISHED ALUMINUM *price* **1.50**

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Housewives always fall in love with the "Little Chef" Asparagus Cooker. Stalks are steamed upright to a tender lusciousness—heads come out unbroken with delicious flavor and color intact—the only correct way to cook asparagus. Tested and approved by Good Housekeeping Institute.

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An ideal Bridge Prize or Christmas Gift

LITTLE CHEF Dept. B
114 East 32nd Street New York

What *your* fireplace has needed! A firescreen that is as harmonious a part of the fireplace ensemble as the andirons. Flexscreen consists of flexibly woven metallic curtains that slide open or closed on a handsome supporting fixture easily attached to the fireplace. Drawn together, they effectively stop all sparks, yet provide full vision of the dancing flames. Drawn apart, they fold gracefully and compactly at either side. Wonderfully convenient. Always in place. Save space. Permanent as the masonry. Price, until now, made firescreens of this advanced type a luxury. If your fireplace fixture dealer does not carry Flexscreen, send for description.

BENNETT FIREPLACE CORP.
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Invaluable for every household and library, every scholar and writer —1472 pages of wit, wisdom, and poetry of ancients and moderns.
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the walk leads directly to the front door, and ends in such a peremptory manner that it cannot by any stretch of the imagination be useful as an *outdoor* extension of the *interior* living quarters. The platform in front of the front door is too small. There is no privacy. Yet this may be the desirable exposure. The revised drawing shows a stone (or brick) terrace running the length of the house, with sufficiently large earth joints so that rock plants or grass may flourish. The terrace should be wide enough so that it will be useful during the summer for table and chairs, where picnic lunches, company suppers, and evening entertainment can take place. As a necessary adjunct there is a high hedge, a fence of palings, or some similar screen, at the front lot line. Then—and only then—will the front garden become an outdoor living room which is serviceable and enjoyable. At the entrance to the garage drive two masonry piers with an overhead lamp will serve as an identifying symbol for strangers coming for the first time, and a habitual welcome for friends on dark nights.

Detail Number 5: The base of the chimney is the problem treated in Number 5. The existing chimney is a uniform width from top to bottom—and a very skimpy affair it is. Being of red brick and abutting white siding makes it frankly out of harmony. In order to get greater width to the chimney, as well as to have this addition serve a useful purpose, one side is greatly increased until it extends to the front of the house. This means that on the interior there can be a wide window seat (with bookshelves or plants as a feature). The red brick chimney is painted white to harmonize with the siding. A trellis is added in the center at the base for added interest.

Detail Number 6: The garage drive at the side of the existing house bounds the property, but it cannot be said to improve the garden. Number 6 detail shows how a simple fence could be constructed (one wide board followed by two narrow ones) and placed near the drive. A simple arbor and gate would serve a useful and decorative purpose. By this means the rear garden will assume a character comparable to that in the front, whereby it would be an enlarged living space within interesting but low "walls." At the rear there might very well be a small reflecting pool and curved seat, with a hospitable tree as a background.

In case there be a too-near neighboring house, as shown at the left, it will improve both properties if a leafy screen of some sort be planted between them on the dividing line.

CHRONOTHERM

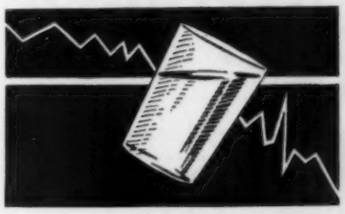
modernizes your present automatic system . . . and saves fuel

You probably have a Minneapolis-Honeywell control, no matter what fuel you burn. 90% have! You think it's good. And it is! . . . for its date. Each year there have been improvements—and the biggest of all is the Chronotherm. Add it to your present system . . . get greater comfort and SAVE FUEL!

WAKES FIRE . . . PUTS IT TO BED

Think what the Chronotherm's electric clock will do that your manual thermostat can't. *After* you go to bed, it automatically cuts the temperature to an economical, healthy level. *Before* you arise, it notifies your heating plant to get busy. You sleep better. Jump out from under the covers into cozy warmth.

GIVES YOU LEVELED HEAT



Day and night, the Chronotherm keeps the temperature *on the level* you prefer. 48 times a day it "feels" for temperature changes—catches them *before* they happen—calls on your heating plant in time to prevent a dangerous "too low" or an uncomfortable, wasteful "too high."

SAVES FUEL AT NIGHT

It's simple arithmetic. Temperature cut 10° at night cuts 10 to 30 per cent off fuel costs with a manual thermostat. *Leveled* daytime comfort means added savings. It costs less to have the Chronotherm than to be without it.

Ask your heating dealer about the Chronotherm, or 'phone Minneapolis-Honeywell. Branches in all principal cities. Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co., 2737 Fourth Ave., South, Minneapolis.

When buying a new automatic heating system—examine the controls. If they're Minneapolis-Honeywell, you can be sure the manufacturer places quality standards above price.

MINNEAPOLIS-HONEYWELL
TEMPERATURE AND AIR CONDITIONING CONTROL SYSTEMS
FOR HOMES, LARGE BUILDINGS AND INDUSTRY

THE HEALTHIEST, HAPPIEST, *Gift* OF ALL!

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THE bicycle is the finest gift any father or friend can give because it's the most ardently desired today.

Today, bicycling is contributing to a large degree to the physical and mental alertness of both sexes, young and old. It builds better bodies—it trains athletes for other sports—it is the happiest way to keep fit.

The gift of bicycles for Christmas is assurance of good times and insurance against the ill health of your loved ones. Modern bicycles are reasonable in cost, and there is a bicycle store conveniently located to serve you. Why not give bicycles this year?

CYCLE TRADES OF AMERICA, INC.

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A non-profit Association of Leading Wholesalers and Manufacturers of Bicycles and Bicycle Parts.

"It's fun TO KEEP FIT ON A BICYCLE"

A KitchenAid REG. U.S. PAT. OFF. *Christmas!*

"SURPRISE MODEL"

■ What a GRAND Christmas! A Christmas you'll never forget. The beginning of freedom—from drudgery and tedium in meal preparation. The end of wasted hours in the kitchen, spending strength unnecessarily. More delectable foods, forever after. More variety in meals! Greater zest in their eating!

KitchenAid (the genuine) is the ONLY electrical food preparer for the home that will give you the most complete help in EVERY operation . . . and apply masterful skill to each.

It is powerful, capable of ALL the tasks, both light and heavy. It is rugged, durable. It mixes, whips, beats, kneads, chops, slices, shreds, sieves and grinds. It shells peas, extracts juice, polishes silver, sharpens knives, opens cans, freezes ice cream . . . and more. KitchenAid is a lifetime servant.

Here is a wonderful gift for all the family . . . through all the years. There's a new "surprise" model, the low price of which now makes it possible to own the KitchenAid of which you've dreamed. Easy budget payments, too. Mail coupon for the information that is such good news!

Ask us about using your present small mixer to apply on purchase of KitchenAid

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Without obligation, please tell me how easy it now is to own a KitchenAid. Also, valuable booklet, "How to Choose a Food Mixer."

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One of the most objectionable short-comings of the existing house, and yet one not always consciously realized by the layman, is that there is practically no wall space to give a sense of quiet and repose. All good architecture has had generous, unbroken wall surfaces, from the cottage to the monumental structure. The shutters on this existing house are merely ornamental, for obviously if they were wide enough to cover the windows there would not be any wall space left. The old entrance increased the effect of nervousness. In the revised drawing the façade is stripped of its non-essentials, a restrained but tasteful entrance is substituted for a clumsy one, and two low, clipped, ball-shaped clumps flank the doorway. The terrace helps to stress the horizontality, and makes the house look like one integral conception from left to right, instead of a series of jerky interruptions.

Try a little tenderness

[*Continued from page 40*]

things, under average development, come naturally with the years. We demand respect instead of earning it when the least thought would tell us that anyone—child or adult—gives homage only where homage is due. We require love because we are parents—not because we are necessarily lovable. Still we have, as parents, the greatest chance in the world to be deeply loved. Our relationship with our children starts on that basis instinctively. But it's up to us whether it develops into something too fine and beautiful for expression or dwindles into a lifeless sense of duty.

The same book which listed "Desire for Security" as one of the fundamental desires of childhood also listed "Desire for power and for exhibiting it." And that too is quite as common to adults. We have simply learned to suppress it under necessity of dealing with other people who have the same and quite as strong a desire. But this urge for power and the exhibition of power can be gratified in children with benefit instead of damage to society. There are two instances that I think of which are perfect examples of what can happen when grown-ups use tenderness and imagination instead of commands and brute force with children.

A boy of twelve was the school bully—principally because, for his own self esteem, he had to excel in something and books were not his forte. He saw younger and smaller boys bringing home the A's and A-plus that brought praise and reward. So he started out to balance the scale in the only way which occurred to him—by strength of muscle. The little boys were in mortal terror of him and dodged down side streets on their way home to get out of his way. The parents tried scolding and shaming him and met with sullenness and silence. Then the principal sent for him and he started for the office with a cocky swagger of bravado. He came out of the office without the swagger and without the bravado—but with a serious air of pride and responsibility. The principal was a queer man. He hadn't said a word about the picking on the little kids. He hadn't scolded. He hadn't told him he should be ashamed of himself. He looked Bill over from head to foot and he asked to feel his muscle.

"I was just wondering," he said, "if you're big enough and strong enough to help me out a little—a great deal in fact. I need a boy about your size to take charge of the younger ones at recess and when they're crossing the street after school. Sort of look after them and see that nothing happens that's dangerous. Think you could do it?"

Could he do it? Could a duck swim or an eagle fly? Pride instead of humiliation—honor in-

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It fully illustrates the many models of the adorable Spinet Grand in exquisite settings in small or large homes and apartments. You will want to see the most sensational piano development of the present Century. Its appealing charm is altogether NEW. Occupies only the space of a sofa yet has all the tonal qualities of a fine piano. You'll love it. Just send a postal with your Name and Address to . . .

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ONLY
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Protects hair, make-up and cosmetics while under shower. Light, transparent and absolutely water-proof. Step out of the shower without having your hair and face in a mess—just as fresh as when you stepped in—not a curl out of place! MEN! excellent safeguard against falling hair! *An excellent Christmas gift for friends.* Send $1.00, money order, check or cash to

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Send for our catalog of unusual gifts (useful, amusing and some risque)

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BOUCLÉ, SHETLAND, GERMANTOWN, SAXONY, SCOTCH TWEED, etc.
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NEW EASY WAY **10¢** JUSTRITE PUSH-CLIP
KEEP WIRES OFF FLOOR
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A neat job instantly. No damage to woodwork. No tools needed. Set of eight colored clips to match your cords, 10 cents.
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ANTIQUE HOOKED RUGS
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SANI-FLUSH
CLEANS CLOSET BOWLS WITHOUT SCOURING

stead of disgrace. The desire for power and recognition met reasonably and intelligently.

A little girl of eight took a dislike to her baby sister who, naturally, required so much of her mother's time and attention. Such a violent dislike that the parents told her she must not come near the carriage or touch the baby at all. This only intensified her feeling of being an outsider and she took it out in doing everything possible to annoy her mother and disturb her sister. Loud war whoops at the end of the porch during nap time, letting the blinds fly to the top in a darkened room, stamping up the stairs, flipping cold water off her fingers as she passed the baby's bed. The mother was frantic and the father furiously angry. Then an aunt came to visit. An aunt with the ability to feel what other people were feeling.

"Let Marion take some of the care of the baby," she suggested and was answered with refusal.

"She'd hurt her," the mother insisted.

"Mary is hurt herself. Hurt, because she hasn't learned to adjust herself to the change of not being first and most important any longer," said the aunt. "Give her a chance to love the baby. You can't hate anyone you do things for."

So the next time little sister was crying herself into something that resembled a red peony the aunt called Mary.

"Come here, dear, and see if you can do anything for her. I can't get her to stop."

Mary sat down in a low rocker and the baby was put in her arms. The aunt busied herself around the room. Soon there was a gentle rocking, then a low humming. Mary's face was blissful—the baby had stopped crying and gone to sleep.

"I did it," she whispered, "I got her to stop—and you and mother couldn't—she's my baby now!"

Just try a little tenderness.

I watched a man one night working on a jig-saw puzzle. He was a tired business man and yet he went at that with the patience of Job and the delicacy of a watch maker. When the right piece for the space was finally found it was carefully fitted into the other intricate edges—

"Have to be careful with these good puzzles," he said, "or you damage the things and they never will fit right again."

Tenderness in bringing up children doesn't mean softness and weakness. It means friendliness and understanding and infinite patience both as to time and to method. It means consideration and compassion for human beings who are in the same world we are in and preparing to face the same problems we have faced.

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EASY MAGIC MACAROONS

½ cup Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk — 2 cups shredded coconut

Mix Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk and shredded coconut together. Drop by spoonfuls on a well-buttered pan, about one inch apart. Bake in a moderate oven (350° F.) until a delicate brown. Makes two dozen.

● What a recipe! Just two ingredients! Yet watch these crunchy, crispy, coconutty macaroons make a tremendous hit! ● But remember —*Evaporated Milk* won't—can't—succeed in this recipe. You must use *Sweetened Condensed Milk*. Just remember the name *Eagle Brand*.

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● *Send your name and address and dealer's with this ad for further information.*

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"Home," writes one wise psychologist, "should mean affection, support, and comfort. Affection and serenity, the comfort of understanding in the home are infinitely more important than direction or discipline."

Childhood is neither an obscure disease nor a sentimental and poetical state of existence. It is simply a beginning on the adventure of living—a beginning with natural and human desires and limited experience. A beginning which needs help and guidance instead of censure and commands.

"Furmety for pottage and venison fine"

[*Continued from page 17*]

Another tract-writer who "minced not his words," went further. "Such pye," frothed he, "is an hodge-podge of superstition, Popery, the devil and all his works!" . . . There now!

Nevertheless, throughout the land, in humble cottage and royal castle alike, the making of mince meat went merrily on. No sooner was the Harvest Home feast out of the way than preparations were started for Christmas. Even today in thousands of English homes, the chop-chop-chopping of mountains of suet, candied peel, raisins, and what-not begins in early November, and goes steadily on until scores of plum puddings are boiling weeks on end in the great copper; until the larder shelves are piled high with jars of mincemeat, where still reposed a few choice jars of past years' vintage. Then comes the making of the great plum cake which mother weighs and measures with all the solemnity of a sacred rite, according to the yellowed recipe written in the precise hand of granny's grandma!

"It is a great nostrum, the composition of this pastry," wrote a foreign visitor to Old England. "It is a most learned mixture, and every family against Christmass maketh it. Also a sort of soup with plums, which is not inferior to the pye, which is in their language call'd plum-porridge."

He could have added that all Christmas Eve a guard kept watch of the "pyes" because "slie thiefes," members of the professionally unemployed, with snatching hooks were a "nightly feare." In honest England! A pye crime-wave, in spite of the fact that practically every home of any consequence in all the land had flung open its doors to the poor and needy for those twelve magic days from Christmas to Twelfth Night.

"Feed thy poor neighbor," was the rich man's motto, and from the King down to the least Squire, they did it. The wholehearted hospitality of medieval days staggers one. Old records tell us that ten thousand poor neighbors came "every day to meat" to the King's household during Christmas-tide, 1398. One hundred and twenty thousand people "well-fared from one kitchen!"

In 1770, for instance, hear what Sir Henry Grey had cooked "all in a great dish" for a little Christmas dinner he gave to a few friends! Four geese, two turkeys, two rabbits, four wild-duck, two woodcocks, six snipes, four partridges, seven black-birds, two neats' toungues, two curlews, and a half-dozen pigeons. To this the cooks added a "vasty amount" of other ingredients, such as two bushels of flour and twenty pounds of butter, so that the enormous pie when ready to serve weighed 165 pounds, measured nine feet in circumference, and had to be brought round at table on a four-wheel cart especially constructed for that purpose!

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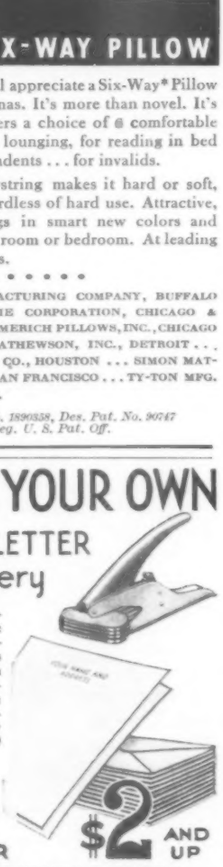

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STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., required by the Act of Congress, of March 3, 1933, of THE AMERICAN HOME, published monthly at Garden City, New York, for October, 1934. State of New York, County of New York.

Before me a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared W. H. Eaton, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of The American Home and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Country Life-American Home Corp., 444 Madison Ave., New York; editor, (Mrs.) Jean Austin, 444 Madison Ave., New York; business manager, W. H. Eaton, 444 Madison Ave., New York.

2. That the owner is: Country Life-American Home Corp., 444 Madison Ave., New York. Stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock are: W. H. Eaton, 444 Madison Ave., New York; W. H. Eaton, voting trustee for: Mrs. Jean Austin, Henry L. Jones, R. T. Townsend, all of 444 Madison Ave., New York.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding one per cent. or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

(Signed) W. H. Eaton, Business Manager.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26th day of September, 1934.

(Signed) Theodore F. Gloister
Notary Public Queens County Clerk's No. 281, Cert. filed in New York County Clerk's No. 11
Certificate filed in Nassau County
(My commission expires March 30, 1935)
[SEAL]

in the seventeenth century, records that on Christmas Day, 1658, he sat down to a dinner which consisted of "a dish of marrow bones, a leg of mutton and a loin of veal; three pullets and a dozen larks, all in a great dish. Also a great tart, a neat's tongue, a dish of anchovies and prawns, and cheese." Here was the first mention we found of cheese on the Christmas table.

And there were salads or "sallets" as they were called in bygone days. A favorite served by the master cook of King Richard II on important feast days is given in a manuscript compiled about 1390.

"Take parsel, sauge, garlic, chibollas (young onions), leek, borage, myntis, parrectes, fennel, and ton cresses, rew, rosemarye, purslayne; lave and waisshe hem clein; pike hem, pluck hem small with thyn honde, myng them well with rawe oils. Lay on vinegar and salt, and serve forth." Not so bad for five hundred years ago!

In 1615 the cook combined "thin slices of cowcumbers," with flower petals from her kitchen garden. Violets, primroses, cowslips and the magic rosemary flower all went into the mixture. A cook book of that year gives a detailed recipe for preserving flower salads so that they may be used "at pleasure as they will last all the year." This suggests the petals of "any wholesome flower whosoever" to be picked clean from their stalks, then washed and dried. The dried flowers are then layered with sugar in a big glass pot. "This done, you shall take the best and sharpest vinegar you can get and fill up your pot until the vinegar swim aloft and no more can be received. Then stop up the pot close and set in a dry temperate place."

John Evelyn, writing about 1700 clears up all question about what goes into "sallets." "They consist," he points out, "of roots, stalks, leaves, buds, and flowers." Everything, evidently, but the thorns and caterpillars!

Pickles were getting to the Christmas table by the middle of the seventeenth century. These would probably be the flower of common ash (picked in May while the keys were full grown and tender, and not yet a winged seed), elder buds, broom buds, and ye like!

Cocktails? Nothing so effeminate! Our forebears drank wassail from "good brown bowls" a traditional drink as much a part of Christmas hospitality as the celebrated "minch-pye." Waeshale, or wassail, was carefully compounded of a mixture of hot ale, sugar, and nutmeg. On Christmas Eve apples were roasted on a string until they dropped off into a great bowl of this spiced ale, whereupon the beverage became automatically "Lamb's-wool," the origin of which outlandish name is now etymologically misty. One worthy antiquarian offers the guess that this famous old Anglo-Saxon drink was just as popular at Hallowe'en, which festival was dedicated to the good spirit who kept guard over fruit, and so was called "Apple Day" which in Celtic dialect is *La mas ubhal*. If you say that quickly, you get "lam asool" and from there to "lamb's wool" is easy, especially after you've been drinking it in a pint ladle from a ten-gallon Wassail Bowl for twelve days!

A three-hundred-year-old recipe for this ancient home brew is as follows:

"Boil three pints of ale; beat six eggs, the whites and yolks together; set both to the fire in a pewter pot; add roasted apples, sugar, beaten nutmegs, cloves and ginger; and, being well brewed, drink it while hot."

Old customs die hard in England. This Christmas the wassail bowl will be carried as usual around the streets of hundreds of little villages and, as in centuries past, many a neighbor's house will be lustily serenaded. And out from laden pantries will come trays of mince pies.

"Merry Christmas!" will cry the wassailers.

And English housewives—even as you and I—will proceed to say it with eats!

In America, too, punch bowls are coming down from the top shelf of the pantry while grandfather with smacking of lips and much unnecessary flourish, shows the boys a thing or two about mixing the mighty bowl. And as the cups go around, the mirth and wassail will echo back the joviality of long departed years.

OUR OWN
Enquiring Reporter

Now that it's so popular to be asked questions by enquiring reporters, we sent one of our own out on a little cross-country jaunt. Here are some of his reports:

Mrs. R. L. Van D—, Youngstown, Ohio: "Do I drink pineapple juice? I think it's grand. Our whole family has DOLE Pineapple Juice for breakfast every morning!"

Miss Wilma N—, New York City: "I like DOLE Pineapple Juice because it's so fresh and fragrant in that vacuum-packed can of yours. Please put me down for DOLE every time."

Mrs. Charles M. G—, Chicago: "Our family always has half a dozen cans or so of DOLE Pineapple Juice in the refrigerator. It's the most economical fruit juice I know of, and so convenient. Just open the can and pour. That's all."

Mr. Henry J. T—, Birmingham: "I like DOLE Pineapple Juice at night when I come home from work. Yes sir! I understand it's rich in natural, energy-yielding fruit sugars and that's why a tall glass of golden pineapple juice always hits the spot when I'm tired and want a refreshing drink."

Mrs. C. Leroy B—, Seattle: "I use DOLE Pineapple Juice for cooking, too. Basting hams and meats. In sauces. It's perfectly delicious that way. You should try cooking with it."

Regist'd Nurse, Mildred A. McK—, San Diego: "Because DOLE Pineapple Juice has been accepted by the American Medical Association's Committee on Foods and is a good source of Vitamins A, B and C, with important nutritional elements, I've found it's especially good for children. They like it too!"

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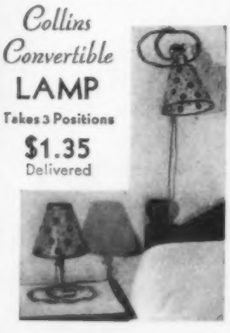

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THE AMERICAN HOME

GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK

Is your room piano conscious?

[Continued from page 27]

Ballet, which were very effective.

Seating arrangements at the piano vary according to the preference of the individual. The choice today lies between a piano bench and a chair, for the old-time piano stool that whirled tipsily and squawked raucously at every whirl has about passed out of the picture. People who spend much time at the keyboard usually prefer some kind of chair because it affords the comfort of a back rest during the long hours of practice. A rare old chair at the piano creates a really lovely picture. The living room illustration shows a pair of antique chairs used at the piano in a home where there are some enthusiastic players of four-hand piano music.

The problem of the upright piano is something to send the decorator—professional or amateur—to the "screaming room." Fortunately for the world in general, the army of the upright is dwindling, but the remnant must be reckoned with.

The same suggestions about lighting, heat from radiators, balance, may be as successfully applied to the upright as to the grand piano. But the actual placing of the instrument is different.

Occasionally some brave soul will place the upright piano at right angles to the wall with, perhaps, a screen at the back against which is set a grouping of furniture. Much is claimed for this arrangement, both as to tone production and appearance. Very few people, however, can be persuaded to adopt this position, preferring the customary way of placing the instrument flat against the wall. A little ingenuity, however, can redeem this from the commonplace and be productive of interesting results. Bookshelves may be built at either side and above the upright piano to add importance to the piano unit of your room. Again, a pair of screens set at each side with chairs or small tables before the screens will create a very unique group. As to the top, a pair of candlesticks or a fine vase or bowl, a bit of Staffordshire, or even a small radio, will prove good and sufficient adornment.

Too much stress can not be laid upon the matter of the tuning of the piano. Keeping the instrument in perfect tune is highly important, not only for the good of the piano itself but for your own aural protection and as a courtesy to your musical guests.

If you persist in listening to an ill-tuned piano it will not be long until your perception of tone will be permanently dulled. This is a point worthy of very thoughtful attention in the case of children, for ear-training is a vitally important part of their musical education. Then, too, your piano must be perfectly tuned for accompaniments for singing and for ensemble playing. This subject of tuning is one that is so universally disregarded that what was said in the first paragraph may well be repeated here—if there is any excuse at all for having a piano in your home, you should feel a responsibility about its care.

Piano owners have an obligation in this regard which, it must be admitted, many of them take very lightly. All too often, people—quite nice people, too—people who would not dream of offering guests sandy spinach or luke warm food—will blandly ask a sensitive musician to use a jangling piano. Occasionally, it is true, they will add apologetically: "The piano may be a little out of tune, I hope you won't mind too much." From then on, the real music lovers suffer pure torture.

In addition to periodic tuning of your piano there are a few other items which should not be overlooked. A dependable piano polish applied with the softest of cloths will keep the wooden case in the pink of condition, and a moderately stiff brush will prove helpful in clearing dust from the strings and felt.

The mention of felt suggests another point. The little hammers which produce the piano tone by striking the strings are covered with fine wool felt, and many a family of moths has been kept off the relief rolls by establishing itself in somebody's piano felt. It is a good thing, therefore, to keep a small amount of moth preventive stowed away somewhere in the "innards" of your piano. Your piano tuner can recommend a good moth preventive—not too smelly—and also show you where to place it under the lid. A little precaution in this matter may save you the cost—no mean sum, either—of having the hammers re-felted. Furthermore, it may save some other valuable possession of yours, for, having exhausted the piano felt, enterprising moths have been known to advance upon other furnishings.

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Write for Details

Dahlias of distinction in 1934

— Leonard Barron

Kay Francis, the pale yellow Semi-cactus winner of The American Home Achievement Medal at New York and Camden and several other distinctions elsewhere. Below is illustrated the exquisitely modeled yellow Pompon, Mrs. B. L. Bonham

Decorative display of amber colored Orchid-flowered Dahlias in an amber glass bowl which won the English Dahlia Society's medal offered for the best exhibit in arrangements at The American Dahlia Society's Show

Velvet Wonder, Informal-decorative, deep violet-purple; also given The American Home Achievement Medal at New York

LOOKED at in long retrospect, one Dahlia season seems much like another. Each season has its debutantes, each season sees some few novelties of spectacular distinction. True though it is that only a comparatively few of each year's new things ride on in triumph for a long term of years, yet none the less, it is also true that there are each year some few newcomers that the critical grower who wishes to maintain a position among the front rank of fanciers must add to his collections annually—so rapidly do standards change in this variable flower.

I am quite sure that the Dahlia is in no danger of a decline in popularity. It is a plant that gives amazing and full results the year it is planted; it has gorgeous color that is conspicuously welcome as the summer brilliancy of the garden wanes; it has a range of form and size possibilities that no other plant for the ordinary garden can offer; and withal it is just sufficiently temperamental to make its really successful cultivation a genuine triumph, the while it yields with a certainty, surprisingly satisfying results without great attention to a lot of details.

THE AMERICAN HOME again offered its Achievement Medal in several strategic centers of the Dahlia interests. The creation of this award for a meritorious new Dahlia a few years back had a startling effect in the little but very seethingly active Dahlia world. Offered for novelties at the leading shows it has come to be a coveted honor, especially at the National Show in New York. It must be understood that intrinsic distinction and merit are essential and the flowers must be staged in perfection of condition. It may happen, as last year, that no award can be made though the contestants are potentially sound. At New York this year very strong competition was brought out and so close were a couple of contestants that for the first time the accolade was conferred upon two quite distinct Dahlias. One is a clear light yellow Semi-cactus, Kay Francis, somewhat reminis-

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cent of Frau O. Bracht, but better in color and of more substantial form and chaste quality and it seems to make a deeper impression on you the longer you see it. It was a hot contest indeed that gave a duplicate medal to Velvet Wonder (Hunt) one of those deep, deep colored broad-petalled massive informal decorative flowers that arrests attention by size and weight of color alone. It is seemingly a flower of stamina and endurance that twice seen on exhibition tables continuously improved under observation.

But it was at Camden, New Jersey a little later in the season that the greatest contest and the best display of novelty seedlings was developed in the contest for The American Home Achievement Medal and, again, Kay Francis won. In both places a strong contestant from the same exhibitor was Betty Davis, a clear violet-rose, Semi-cactus, delightful form. This latter variety reversed the order of precedence at Baltimore

Mrs. T. O. M. Sopwith, Straight Cactus, pink grading to paler center

Forest Fire, Informal-decorative, scarlet and yellow

—it beat its associate. An example of how conditions may at times turn the tables.

When it comes to the large bloom, the deep purple-red Murphy's Masterpiece held its own, but its security was assailed in some places by the bright yellow, Informal-decorative, Lord of Autumn which established a fine reputation this season. It is indeed immense; the color is bright, the flower is borne up well and its general popularity is attested in that it was a favorite of the multitude of visitors at the

A bright note for the coming months

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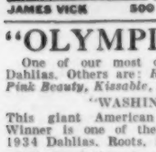

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display of the New York Botanical Garden.

Somewhat similar to Murphy's Masterpiece in size and in conformation but on the whole more regular without the tendency to droop in the lower part and tending more to the deep crimson color is a newcomer, Mrs. George Le Boutillier, Formal-decorative, (Ruschmohr Gardens). This was seen in several exhibitions. Uniformly good.

Another thing the exhibitions of this season showed was the steady and continuing development of interest in the smaller flowered types—Miniatures and Pompons. These are the utility flowers for the average household where flowers are wanted for use in decorative arrangements, although the winning exhibit of the Dahlia arrangement that carried off the medal offered by the English Dahlia Society at the exhibition of the American National Society was won by Miss Bollerer's arrangement of an Orchid-flowered type.

Because of weather conditions and other circumstances, The American Home Achievement Medal offered at Portland, Oregon, at Seattle, Wash., and at Louisville, Ky., were not awarded this year.

No attempt is here made to present a catalogue of all the novelties of the season. I am merely picking the high-spots, that is, varieties that impressed me as I saw them at several of the exhibitions and contests and which must be given consideration by the gardener who wants to be in the running next season. For the comments and notes of behavior of the Pacific Coast, acknowledgment is made for the coöperation of Mr. Warwick S. Carpenter, as in previous years. It is quite possible that there is some good thing lurking in an obscure corner that hasn't run the gauntlet of open competition which, in the final analysis, is the acid test. Merely for convenience of reference the following varieties are arranged in alphabetical order.

VARIETIES OF IMPORTANCE THIS YEAR

Angelo Rossi, Informal-decorative (Redfern) large and outstanding in character; rich mellow apricot of the Jane Cowl color type. Long stems. Winner of the trophy of the President of the Spanish Republic as best three-year-old seedling of California Flower Festival. Carries its flowers upright.

Anna Benedict, Informal-decorative (Maytrott) deep red wine effect produced by a general garnet tone with black shadings and darkening toward the center. A moderate sized flower of impressive color.

Betty Davis, Semi-cactus (Cordes-Eastman) clear violet-rose. A dainty prolific flower of fine substance and petallage and above medium size but not immense. Won The American Home Achievement Medal at Baltimore; best Semi-cactus seedling at Camden and Bryn Mawr and similar awards at Los Angeles. A dainty, clean-cut variety of good form and clear distinct color.

Bing Crosby, Informal-decorative (Stephenson Dahlia Gardens), winner of The American Home Achievement Medal at the Los Angeles Show, Dahlia Society of Southern California. A large flower with petals of yellow striped with pale red in irregular narrow lines. It is a seedling of La Fiesta and indeed so very similar in color and form as to be almost identical with its well-known parent.

California Idol, Informal-decorative (Ballay) clear, rather translucent lemon-yellow. Winner of The American Home Achievement Medal at Boston, and best three-year-old at the Dahlia Society of California Show. Flower carried high on long stems.

Daddy Kemp, Informal-decorative (Kemp). Luminous violet-red; broad, flat petals, gracefully loose. A contestant for the largest bloom, winning in that category at Red Bank, N. J.

Elizabeth Anne, Pompon (Bolsa). Another addition to the Pompons in glowing rose-red. Its perfection of form is enhanced by its definite tendency to smallness.

Forest Fire, Informal-decorative (Maytrott) lives in mind from the fitness of the name. The broad pointed petals are flaming red and these are subtended by orange-yellow petaloids that lend to the whole flower a truly living flamelike effect. One of the most distinctive.

Jessie Crawford, Informal-decorative (Fraser). Orchid-lavender with shadings from a light tone to the deep color that you may find in the lip of a Cattleya. Really very distinctive and striking in its color.

Kay Francis, Semi-cactus (Eastman), clear light lemon-yellow, carrying the flower well on the stem; a good keeper, holding color well. Flowers freely. This won The American Home Medal at New York and at Camden and has a number of other championships, such as: the best undisseminated of Maryland origination; best blooms in the open to all Semi-cactus class at Baltimore; champion seedling at Bryn Mawr, with bronze medal of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. It also made a good record on the Pacific Coast.

Miss Vivian, Miniature Informal-decorative (Mack) pink, with rather compact formation tending to approach the ball type. Blooms carried well above the foliage on long stems. Consistently of good form and color.

Mrs. T. O. M. Sopwith, Cactus (Fisher & Masson) pink, shading out to white at the center. A lively, quite animated looking flower. Sprightly indeed and looks splendidly as exhibited in a basket arrangement at New York. A practical medium-sized flower, carried well on long stems.

Mrs. B. L. Bonham, Pompon

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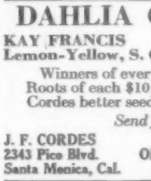

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Angelo Rossi, Informal-decorative, mellow apricot. The Pompon at right gives size comparison

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(Travis). Clear bright yellow, of exquisite modeling and carried rigidly on sturdy stems.

New Deal, Informal-decorative (Eppler). Might be broadly described as an orange colored Jersey's Beacon.

Olympic Sunset, Semi-cactus (Lee's), large flower, salmon-orange blending to yellow at the base. Winner in the undisseminated class at Tacoma.

Pink Beauty, Cactus (Lee) somewhat of the type of Oriental Beauty but more wavy and the petals more incurving around the flower. Pure color, on long stems. Won several honors on the Pacific Coast in undisseminated classes.

Queen of the Angels, Semi-cactus (Rainbow Dahlia Farm) temporarily known also as Olympic and locally as La Reina de Los Angeles. Oriental pink shading to nearly white tips, dense petals and the whole flower suggestive of a Chrysanthemum. The blooms are of moderate size, one of the most distinctive of recent originations of Southern California.

Red Wonder, Informal-decorative (Burpee). A somewhat peculiar flower in which, as a matter of fact, the individual bloom seems to have little distinctive appeal but in a mass, because of the yellowish shadings of the color in the central cluster of young petals, is very effective. The expanded petals are ruby-magenta with a lighter reverse and gives the flower an individual character, as said, in a mass is quite distinctive.

Rockley Moon, Formal-decorative (Ruschmohr) clear bright yellow. A substantial well-formed fairly large flower that was impressive for its chaste classic form. Inclined to be somewhat shallow, which is not necessarily an objection. Outstanding at West Virginia show.

Sirius, Semi-cactus (Meussdorffer) hailed at San Francisco as the long awaited blue Dahlia. True, it does tend somewhat towards a blue but is perhaps better described as deep pink with purple cast—deeper to the center. The blueing is most evident in twilight when the effect is pink-violet. Something new in color.

Frank Serpa, Informal-decorative (Serpa-Pelicano) winner of The American Home Achievement Medal at San Francisco. Decidedly large flowered variety, stained with pale wine red, variable, and sometimes greatly concentrated on the tips. No two flowers alike. Attractive and decidedly distinctive.

Golden Standard (Downs Dahlia Farms) a large Cactus of pale warm amber buff, seedling from Jane Cowl distinctively attractive in its type and individual in color. A good contestant and one of the "runners up" for our Achievement Medal.

Grand Soleil d'Or, Semi-cactus (Dreer) a bright full flower of rosy mauve color. One of a characteristic group of European introductions having a distinctive character. It is a very full flower, the color appealing and illuminates well at night.

Velvet Wonder, Informal-decorative (Hunt), violet-maroon, broad petaled massive flower, yet not by any means stiff; well formed and maintaining its circular outline even in very large specimens. Achievement Medal winner as indicated above. Likely to be a formidable contestant to the large flower class.

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Potted plants for gifts

[*Continued from page 37*]

those which thrive when very dry, by watering very stingily, and then only when they are bone dry. Just enough water to be thoroughly absorbed might be one's motto. Besides they should all be grown in not too high a temperature indoors, and this treatment in itself makes frequent watering unnecessary. Many of these have fleshy stems and leaves and therefore are beautifully equipped by nature to carry on quite an independent life, without water.

Sansevierias we all know in the cross-variegated variety. We can be looking also for the one with rich yellow bands along the edge of the leaves. It is quite handsome. There's no possibility of not succeeding with them, either. As one grower said, laughingly, "Only a florist can kill a Sansevieria!" The Crassula we know best of all in the misnamed Japanese Rubber Plant, C. arborescens. It has a lot of interesting relatives which we can discover if we set out to do that very thing. Some creep and some stand but all will flower in clusters usually of delicate blooms that seem in contrast to the sturdy quality of leaf. Echeverias which look somewhat like glorified Hen-and-Chickens, Sempervivum, hold in their diminutive rosette forms misty, opalescent beauty. They are sensitive to too harsh a touch and to water lying in their rimmed hearts. Tall and bearing brightly pink blooms are their fleshy flower stalks.

The Opuntia—known also as Bunny Ear, or Orange Cactus—simply can't be discouraged by any treatment! Even its little ears, when broken off, start setting up a new family. It drives a mean spine, though! Crown of Thorns (Euphobia splendens), will guarantee deep rose flowers and can be trained, too, flatly as fruit trees are trained against lattice forms, when it grows older.

There has been much exchanging lately among housewives of the popularly known "air-plant." Its real name is Bryophyllum and if handled properly it will reach up the most amazing, wild flung stalks of small coral-colored flowers, about February. It should spend its summers outdoors, well staked, as it snaps off easily when tall. Re-pot in the fall, and keep quite dry. Its leaves, when they drop and make contact with the soil, will sucker new roots. That unusual plant, Kalanchoe coccinea, because of its bright red clustered flowers, will come into a full popularity this winter and at a reasonable price, too. Its flowering is sure, and comes just after the Christmas plants are going into their usual sad decline.

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Christmas tables

[*Continued from page 9*]

piano and voice after voice takes up the lilt:

"Once again,
O blessed time,
Thankful hearts embrace thee;
If we lost thy festal chime,
What could e'er replace thee?"

Song follows song. The fire is burning low. Outside, the old familiar lawn lies strange and entranced under a deep blanket of snow overlaid with mysterious purple shadows from the bushes. Suddenly the dining-room doors are folded back and a light supper is announced. But how the atmosphere of the table has changed! Lights are out. A circle of white candles burn in crystal holders around the big mirror plaque. And heaped around the mirror are piles of artificial snow . . . a frozen lake in the snow-covered hill country. Miniature artificial pine trees, their pots buried, have been set about in the snow. At each end of the table are big mounds of those silvery blue balls which were such a success on the tree. Branches of mistletoe hang suspended from the chandelier. White china and frosted crystal glasses are arranged at each place.

Possibly the main course will consist of nothing other than cold sliced turkey, a simple green salad, and coffee. But for dessert bring in a large white plate piled high with white ice cream in the top peak of which you have stuck a sprig of green pine . . . a tree growing on top of a snow-covered mountain. And with the ice cream serve a white cake, iced all over in white, and studded with silver candy shot.

It is a picture to store up for a happy memory. It is Christmas day in the evening.